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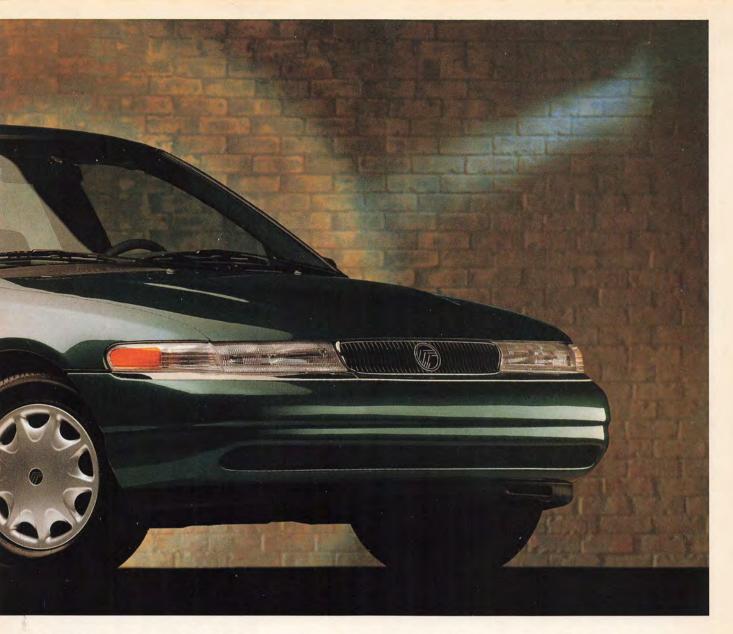


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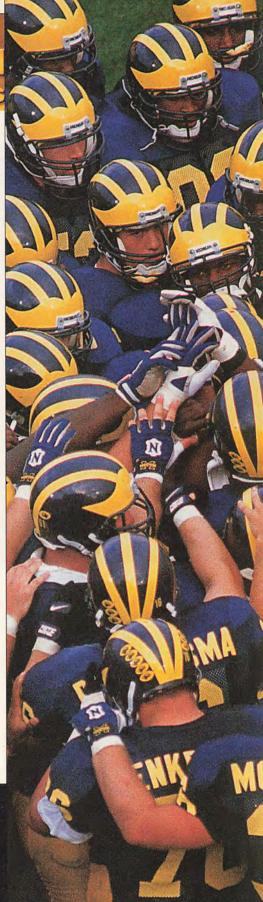
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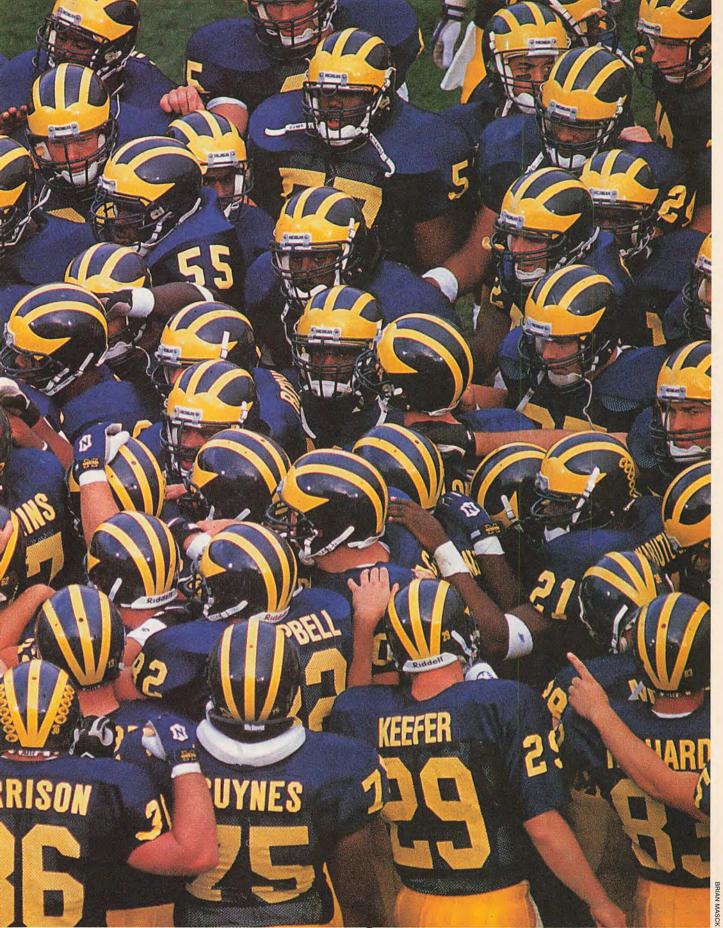
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**Point After** 



#### **Maze of Blue**

Michigan masses on the sideline, gearing up for another kickoff in Ann Arbor.



# TO THE READER

In Texas back in the late 1950s, before the NFL had taken root, the Southwest Conference provided most of the excitement for football fans. Growing up in Dallas, SI Presents editor David Bauer made Saturday-afternoon visits to the Cotton Bowl with his dad to watch the SMU Mustangs, marveling at the feats of quarterback Don Meredith. When defending national champion Texas suffered its only loss of 1964, to Arkansas, Bauer was huddled in a tent with his fellow Boy Scouts on the shores of Lake Tawakoni, listening to the game on a transistor radio. "College football—especially the Southwest Conference—was absolutely king back then," he recalls. "If you were a kid in Texas, that was always the biggest game around."

The SWC will cease play after 1995, marking the end of an era, but Bauer can take solace in the fact that this season is also marked by a beginning: the first SI Presents college football preview issue. This 184-page annual, available on newsstands, joins SI Presents NFL '95, our pro preview that went on sale in July. Issues of similar size and scope are planned for pro basketball (October), college basketball (November) and baseball (March). "The appetite for information is enormous when a season begins," says Bauer, "and with these annual previews we have a new place to satisfy it." Says Matt Barr, publishing director of SI Presents, "The great thing

about these magazines is that they're really dense with data, but the design makes it all easy to get to."

SI Presents was established in January as a division of Sports Illustrated. An editorial staff of 10 now oversees the annuals as well as our championship commemorative issues. SI subscribers will continue to receive their customary season previews in the mail; the larger SI Presents issues will be sold only on newsstands to cater to fans who want even more stories and in-depth information.

Although SI Presents is a spin-off of SI, it hasn't spun far from home. "We still have

as a resource the same vast library of SI photographs, the same superb writers, the same inside access to leagues and locker rooms that the weekly has spent 41 years developing," Bauer says.

For Bauer (left) and Barr, it's kickoff time.

In this issue, for instance, Tim Layden, SI's main college football writer, profiles Colorado's whiz-kid coach, Rick Neuheisel. SI senior writer Richard Hoffer interviews USC coach John Robinson, whose team is No. 1 in our Top 25, while senior writer Steve Rushin takes a wry look at the landscape of college football 25 years from now. And in a farewell to a dying conference, senior writer Ron Fimrite explores the friendship of onetime rival SWC coaches Frank Broyles of Arkansas and Darrell Royal of Texas. "The story tells you a lot about how college football coaching has evolved, from a more gentlemanly on-the-field battle to a high-pressure recruiting war," says Bauer. "It also gives you a peek at the beginning of the end of the SWC."

If Bauer views the demise of the SWC wistfully, Barr, who grew up in Greenwich, Conn., has no such ache. But he does have mixed feelings about the Ivy League. From 1984 to '86, Barr lined up at guard for Columbia, which in that stretch went 0–29.

Mank Mulvoy

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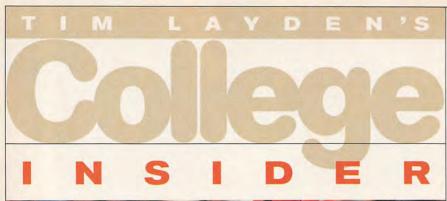
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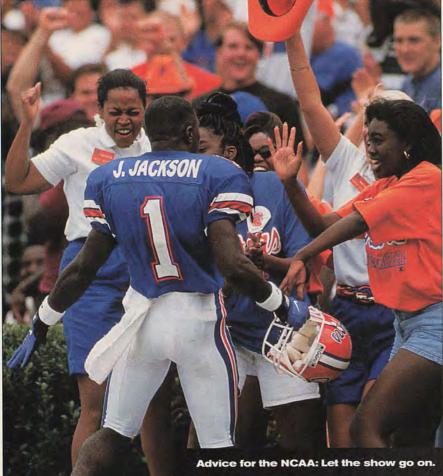
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## **Nothing to Celebrate**

As is its custom, the NCAA football rules committee is living in the distant past, trying with its decisions to recall a slice of history replete with leather helmets and boy-next-door values. Its latest attempt at time travel is the new no-celebration rule.

If a player removes his helmet, kneels in the end zone, shoots an imaginary gun, high-fives fans along the sidelines, mimics the Heisman Trophy pose in celebration or the like, he will be flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct. Two such penalties in a game will result in an automatic ejection.

The committee's aim is to restore sportsmanship to college football. But the rule only reiterates that when it comes to regulating the ills of the game, the best the NCAA can do is throw a few yellow hankies. Miami football isn't a morass of institutional problems because Lamar Thomas and Michael Irvin used to commune with the Orange Bowl fans after a TD catch, but rather because the NCAA hasn't

found a way to police its member institutions.

Games have changed and athletes have changed. College football is more of a show now than it was three decades ago, and the players are more demonstrative. Sure, some of their acts are tiresome and overblown. But most of them are harmless. Even the players who don't partake don't complain; the people who do are coaches, athletic directors and media members who date themselves with their protestations. College football is a business, and the guardians of the game would do best to realize that television and corporate dollars go to entertainers, not to Boy Scouts.

Let coaches and teams administrate their own game-day behavior. Lou Holtz despises on-field celebrations, so you seldom see a Notre Dame player posturing in the end zone. Rules are for placing hash marks and kicking tees. Leave the showmanship-versus-sportsmanship issue to each team.

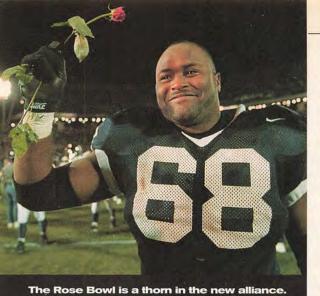
"Dumb referees and dumb NCAA," says USC wideout Keyshawn Johnson. "It's simple—they just don't want us to have fun."

#### A Profitable Alliance

Patience, playoff zealots, patience. We're getting closer. After three years of the experimental bowl coalition, the bowl alliance debuts in 1995. The coalition was an improvement over the politically charged bowl chaos that preceded it, and the alliance is even better. More important, it's one step closer to an open bowl system: a playoff-free national championship.

How does it work? Stay with us; this is the short form:

Five conference champions (Atlantic Coast, Big East, Big Eight, Southeastern and Southwest) and Notre Dame are involved, with three bowls (Fiesta, Orange and Sugar). The two highestranked alliance teams will play each other in one bowl (this year, the Fiesta), teams No. 3 and No. 5 in another (Orange this season) and teams 4 and 6 in the third (Sugar). The 1–2 bowl rotates each year. Next season, it's the Sugar. This year's ultimate game is on Tuesday,



Jan. 2, at 8:30 p.m. EST, in Tempe, Ariz. What's good: No more traditional tie-ins among alliance bowls. No more Big Eight champ to the Orange Bowl, SEC champ to the Sugar, SWC champ to the Cotton (which, like the other remaining bowls, has set up its own deal for determining its participants; it now will feature the WAC champ or the Pac-10 runner-up against the second-place team from the Big Eight). Fewer roadblocks to getting Nos. 1 and 2 together in the same place on the same day. The bowl system is preserved and improved, moving college football toward a true national

A little drama. This year the 4–6 game will be on Sunday night, the 3–5 game on Monday night and the 1–2 game on Tuesday night, eliminating the channel-surfing frenzy triggered by all of the big games' being played on the same day.

title game within the current structure.

What still needs work: The Rose Bowl Thing. The Big Ten and the Pac-10 still aren't in the alliance, sticking instead with the Rose Bowl setup that created last year's Penn State-Nebraska mess. Both conferences will continue to come under pressure from moneystarved athletic directors to join the alliance. Bowls in the alliance guarantee approximately \$8.4 million per team (the Fiesta will actually pay a record \$12 million per team if it features a national title game). The Rose took its first steps toward matching the alliance by raising its ticket price from \$48 to \$75 and its payout from \$6.7 million to \$8.1 million. The granddaddy and its

keepers will die hard in this fight.

The 21 teams of the Big Ten and Pac-10 are contractually bound to the Rose Bowl through Jan. 1, 2001. But as Nebraska coach Tom Osborne says, "The people in college football ought to be smart enough to get the Number 1 and Number 2 teams together."

What will that take? "It's as simple as A, B, C," says Atlantic Coast Conference assistant commissioner Tom Mickle. "When ABC, which

televises the Rose Bowl, puts the pressure on the Tournament of Roses Committee, I think you'll see them join the alliance." Polls. The No. 1 and No. 2 spots are still determined by polls, and the polls are still a mess—a goulash of coaches with vested interests and deep friendships, as well as media people who don't see enough games. Solution: Use one poll with 25 voters, a mix of media and coaches, and require that their ballots be made public.

#### Not-So-Grand Finale

And one other thing while we're on the subject of bowls: There is a new overtime format this season—to be used in all postseason bowl games and the SEC championship game—in which each team begins a series at the opponent's 25-yard line. The team that wins a coin toss can elect to start on offense or defense, or it can choose

#### Plucks of the Irish

Like a farmer spreading manure, Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz used last season's 6-5-1 finish to raise 1995's best recruiting crop. The Irish signed 24 high school stars, with the promise that each would get a serious look as a freshman. "There's not a guy on the list who doesn't have the potential to make a contribution this year," said Holtz. Our experts tab the 10 best 1995 recruiting classes and the top three players from each.

1995 recruiting classes and the top three players from each.			
	Player, position	High school; location	
1. Notre Dame	Kory Minor, LB Jarious Jackson, QB Jamie Spencer, FB	Bishop Amat; LaVerne, Calif. Tupelo (Miss.) Quachita; Monroe, La.	
2. Florida State	Dan Kendra, QB Peter Warrick, WR Sean Key, DB	Central Catholic; Bethlehem, Pa. Southeast; Bradenton, Fla. American; Hialeah, Fla.	
3. Florida	Reggie McGrew, DL Bobby Sabelhaus, QB Ernie Badeaux, DL	Lafayette County; Mayo, Fla. McDonough; Owings Mills, Md. Curtis; River Ridge, La.	
4. Texas A&M	Brandon Houston, OL D'Andre Hardeman, RB Sirr Parker, RB	Taylor; Katy, Texas North Shore; Galena Park, Texas Locke; Los Angeles	
5. Auburn	Takeo Spikes, LB Martavious Houston, DB Quinton Reese, WR	Washington County; Sandersville, Ga. Boyd Anderson; Lauderdale Lakes, Fla. West End; Birmingham	
6. Penn State	Brandon Short, LB Corey Jones, WR Cuncho Brown, TE	McKeesport (Pa.) Conestoga; Lancaster, Pa. Parkland (N.C.)	
7. Tennessee	Chad Cliffton, OL Jeremaine Copeland, LB Spencer Riley, DL	Westview; Martin, Tenn. Harriman (Tenn.) Jefferson County; New Market, Tenn.	
8. Michigan	David Bowens, LB Tai Streets, WR Josh Williams, DL	St. Mary's; Orchard Lake, Mich. Thornton Township; Matteson, III. Cypress Creek; Houston	
9. Nebraska	Ahman Green, RB James Sherman, OL Tony Ortiz, LB	Omaha Central Whittier; LaVerne, Calif. Crosby; Waterbury, Conn.	
10. Colorado	Jeremy Weisinger, QB	Uvalde (Texas)	

Berkeley; El Cerrito, Calif.

**Boulder (Colo.)** 

Hannibal Navies, LB

Corey Kish, OL

# HOT LIST

For better or for worse, this is the stuff people will be talking about this season:

1. Bowled Over. The new bowl alliance is simple—really. They translated the contract from the original hieroglyphics. All you need to know: Fiesta Bowl.

Jan. 2. One versus Two. And the Rose Bowl will screw it up.

- 2. Bad Idea. The no-celebration rule: no helmet removal, no gestures, no highfiving fans, no Heisman poses. Football for C-SPAN.
- 3. Worse Idea Overtime for bowl games: one possession from the 25-yard line to decide a season. Why not just play Sega at midfield?
- 4. Tshimanga Biakabutuka. I'd like to sell a vowel ... and a consonant ... and a vowel. The player himself is a keeper.
- 5. Punitive Damage. Texas A & M, Auburn and Washington—all ineligible for the coaches' poll in '94—should finish in the Top 25. The first two will contend for the national title. That'll teach 'em.
- **G.** Ron Powlus, Oh, sorry. That was last year. Maybe now they'll just let him play instead of having NBC film him holding a football in the church.
- 7. Husker Hostility. At quarterback, Nebraska has one pure leader (Tommie Frazier), one pure passer (Brook Berringer) and miles of enmity. Could we maybe just arrange for a steel-cage match in Lincoln right before the Missouri game?
- 8. Pass-Happy Valley. Penn State's offense could produce five more first-round draft choices. The defense is the question mark. Haven't we seen this before?
- **9.** Peyton's Place. The starting job at Tennessee is Peyton Manning's now. That was the easy part. Now all he has to do is become a legend.
- 10. Miami Vices. Dennis Erickson leaves, nobody wants the job, the NCAA investigates. Us versus Them, Chapter 47. The Hurricanes have us right where they want us.

one end of the field, which both teams will use for the first overtime period. (A period consists of one possession for each team.) Each team retains the ball until it scores, fails to make a first down or turns the ball over (the defense can score off a turnover). If the teams remain tied after one overtime period, they go to a second, and the loser of the coin toss then chooses possession or end of field. The process continues until a period ends with one team leading.

Minigames from the 25-yard line? Dumb, dumb, dumb. Penalty shots aren't hockey, and shootouts aren't soccer. Football doesn't need a gimmick. If the NCAA wants to mandate overtime, then play sudden death. Punts and kickoffs are a part of the game.

#### Firing Line

These programs (and coaches) will be under close scrutiny this season:

- •Georgia (Ray Goff). The widespread assumption was that Goff was a goner last year, until the Bulldogs tied Auburn in the 10th week of the season and finished 6-4-1. Now he has a year to improve on that.
- Texas (John Mackovic). An annual entry on the hot-seat list, Mackovic took Texas to 8–4 last year after consecutive five-loss seasons in his first two years. Orangebloods expect more, like 10 wins and an alliance bowl.
- Rutgers (Doug Graber). The Scarlet Knights were 5-5-1 a year ago after a 5-3-1 start. Graber is 31-34-1 and hasn't been to a bowl. Time to beat somebody good in the Big East and get to seven wins.
- Arizona State (Bruce Snyder). After two consecutive 6–5 seasons, the Sun Devils slipped to 3–8 in Snyder's third year. The Pac-10 is the most balanced conference in the country: Win close games and you go to a bowl; lose them and your job is in jeopardy.

#### Dates from Hell

Scheduling is a nightmare. Everybody wants six or seven home games for the money, and nobody wants to play at Miami or Nebraska except for the money. Athletic directors work far in advance and are currently scheduling well into the 21st century. All that considered, these are some games coaches and ADs wish they didn't have to play this fall:

Miami at UCLA, Sept. 2. With a new coach and after an off-season mired in controversy, Miami could use UTEP instead on Labor Day weekend.

Nebraska at Michigan State, Sept. 9. Quaint welcome for new Spartan head coach Nick Saban.



Goff is still dogged by firing rumors.

Colorado State at Colorado, Sept. 9.

No-lose situation for adored CSU head coach Sonny Lubick. No-win situation for new Colorado coach Rick Neuheisel.

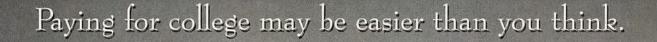
Great for the state, lousy for the Buffaloes.

Arizona at Illinois, Sept. 16. Arizona's game of the year comes one week later, against USC, which rolls in off easy wins over San Jose State and Houston.

Texas A & M at Colorado, Sept. 23.

The Aggies have only one tough nonconference game, and this is it. Hey, with the national championship there for the taking, why not go all the way and play all tomato cans?

Speaking of pushovers, the award for softest nonleague schedule goes to Kansas State. The Wildcats open with Temple, Cincinnati, Akron and Northern Illinois, all among the 20 weakest programs in the country.



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# John Robinson

HIS FRUSTRATING L.A. RAM DAYS BEHIND HIM, USC'S COACH IS READY TO REKINDLE PAST GLORY

John Robinson is so thoroughly identified with USC football that you would think he arrived with Traveler, the Trojan steed that has been annoying competitors with its touchdown laps for what seems like a century. Yet in his two tenures at the school, Robinson has coached USC only three more seasons than Larry Smith, the man he replaced 2½ years ago. And for that matter, Robinson has coached as many years in the NFL as in the Pac-10. So what is it about John Robinson and USC? Well, the two used to win together—during the first go-round (1976–82), they averaged nearly 10 victories a season, with a national championship and three Rose Bowl wins—and apparently they still can. Since being rehired in '93, after nine years of coaching the Los Angeles Rams and another season of the coach's purgatory in the broadcast booth, Robinson has restored expectations at the formerly middling USC, taking over Smith's last, 6-5-1 team and leading the Trojans to records of 8-5 in 1993 and 8-3-1 last season, including a tie with Notre Dame and a 55-14 Cotton Bowl thumping of Texas Tech. As in the old days, the Trojans seem poised to dominate their conference, and Robinson, whose enthusiasm makes him the perfect front man for USC (and a pretty good recruiter, too), is more than ready to resume his position as caretaker of one of the great traditions in college football. The 60-year-old Robinson talked with SI senior writer RICHARD HOFFER about the fun he's having as a collegian and the fun he didn't have as a pro.

**SI:** You've had what every college coach thinks he wants, a head coaching job in the NFL. Now that you're back from the pros, any warnings for your more ambitious colleagues?

JR: It's true—I'm the guy everybody calls now: "What's it like?" "What do I do?" It's not for everybody. The money's tempting, and all those perks. But you've got to figure out all the other things, the intangibles. I would say the NFL opportunity would be great for the young college coach, a technically oriented guy caught up in just football. He can go to the NFL and have a lot of success. But for coaches involved in the bigger picture, well, a guy's gotta be careful.

SI: It doesn't sound like the NFL was all that great for you.

JR: Oh, I had some great times. And I think I was great in the NFL. Well, not great, but we did make six playoffs, and we did almost get to the Super Bowl twice. But the Rams were never committed to winning. Not that the Rams weren't successful. They made

money, and that was their goal. But there was never the commitment to succeed, to compete with every other team in the NFL.

SI: Clearly, things are better for you at USC.

JR: This is the right place for me. I'll never coach in the NFL again, and I'm not going to coach anywhere but USC. Unless I get fired.

SI: What is it about the college experience that seems to suit you?

JR: You know, the NFL athletes are great. They're dedicated, they work hard. But the great thing about coaching college kids is, by the time you can't stand the kid any longer, he's gone. Of course, in the NFL we could always fire him. Not fast enough? You're fired. In jail? You're fired. Hard to fire kids in college.

SI: That problem aside, you seem to manage cheerfully enough.

JR: When you recruit a 17-year-old kid, and it's true he might have some baggage, you have a chance at a success story four or five years later. I'm not talking about the Pat Hadens or Lynn Swanns.

People say, "Aren't you proud of them?" All we did was keep out of their way. It's the other guys, the Tony Bosellis, who come here, and everything good that can happen, does. Or it's the guy who simply graduates, becomes a man. In the NFL you don't get the feeling of being a surrogate parent. A year ago we had a kid here, missed a few classes. The adviser called his mom. And soon she's sitting in my office, saying, "What the hell is wrong with you?" I don't remember Dennis Harrah's mom ever coming into my office. On the other hand, that kid didn't miss any more classes. And his mom will probably cry when he graduates. So will I.

SI: But does it always work that way at USC?

JR: A part of anything that's hard is failing. People forget that. And some of our best efforts result in failure. It's the guy whose mom doesn't come in. The other guy—that's crushing.

SI: But more and more, don't you have to recruit "the other guy" to stay competitive at this level?

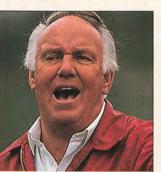
JR: If we only took the sure bets, I'd worry about education in America. We need to be risktakers with some of our youth. The kid with one foot in the gutter—athletics has always gone after that kid. Athletics has always been about taking kids who have some clouds in their background, and I approve heartily.



SI: That's a big job you cut out for yourself. Coach players, mold men, make sure they go to class. Is it harder this time around than before? JR: No, it's twice as easy now because we have other people to do those things. In the old days, coaches were running around trying to do jobs they weren't competent to do. We had little expertise, no budget for those things. It's not up to me, thank goodness, to find a reading specialist for somebody. It used to be that the players' adviser was some part-time guy working on his doctorate. Now there are tremendous resources for this kind of thing.

SI: What about recruiting? Coaches today complain about the process, as if it somehow soils them.

JR: This sounds phony as hell, but I enjoy the heck out of it. The first time around, I'd go into a high school, see what I had to see and get out of there. But now I kind of hang around. It's fascinating. You know, the [high school] coach's job is tough. I went to one place, the coach is waving a spatula around. He's selling cookies to buy uniforms for the team. Well, I did what I could for the sake of those uniforms, of course, but I couldn't help thinking, This is kind of impressive. Also, [I've gone] into so many homes, seen so many broken families, so many single mothers, so many kids eliminated so early-trouble right



"This is the right place for me. I'll never coach in the NFL again, and I'm not going to coach anywhere but USC."

out the door. We were working to get this one kid, maybe we were the first to actually offer a scholarship. The mom started bawling. She had been working two jobs to get this kid to that point. These stories are there. They're real. The coaches and moms who deal with these kids, they're the best. SI: Should these kids get some-

thing more than a scholarship for playing football?

JR: I'm not for some schedule where if you're All-America you get \$5,000. But I do believe scholarships aren't enough. A lot of these kids struggle to eat. People scoff and laugh and point at athletes driving new cars. Those stories exist, I know that, but that's not the way it is for 99 percent of these kids. So many of them come here without resources from their families.

And we encroach on their summers and take that income opportunity away. We should be doing better. These kids shouldn't be living on the edge of poverty with people telling them to manage their money better. "Here's five dollars, make it last." I think the scholarship should just include more.

SI: USC has had the college entrance exam results of three football recruits—Delon Washington, Kenny Cooper and, most recently, Ken Haslip-challenged in the past year. Are you involved or concerned?

JR: We don't have anything to do with [the testing process]. Actually, this is a great example of the system working. As soon as we heard about it, we stopped playing [Washington]. In the old days, we'd probably have really looked bad, but nowand I think this is an example of real progress-[our not playing him] takes away all the finger-pointing, all the "they're cheating" thing.

SI: Since you've been back among the collegians, you can't help but have noticed that fewer and fewer of them take advantage of all four years of their scholarship. Do you object to this flight to the NFL among sophomores and juniors?

JR: It's a negative for the university, but not necessarily for the play-

ers. They have an opportunity to make a tremendous amount of money. The thing that goes wrong sometimes, the player is not ready for it. He's not mature. We have a player, Keyshawn Johnson, who has decided to stay [for his senior year]. That gives us a chance to contend for the national championship. Without him, we wouldn't. But that can't be the basis for his deciding to stay. The player has to come first. In his case, with only one year of major-college experience, he has a better chance to mature, to develop a great off-the-field future. This kid will be a very successful player, and he could be a media star. Learning how to be adult should be part of the decision. My recommendation—this is my solution—is that each NFL team donate \$1 million to the university for every first-round pick. Not necessarily to the athletic department, just to the university. I guess, knowing the NFL, I'm not being very serious.

**SI:** Another issue that comes up, with even greater inevitability, is the move to a playoff system to determine the national champion. Does what works in the NFL work at the college level?

JR: I would have loved to have seen a playoff last year, one

game after the Rose Bowl, Penn State versus Nebraska. It would have been absolutely sensational. In last year's case, we'd have had a national champion, and not one negative aspect for either school. Think of it: two of the greatest coaches of all time, great players. Maybe it wouldn't have been as big as the Super Bowl, but it would have been fabulous. However, to go



to some four-game playoff schedule, I don't think anybody quite understands the pressure of that. As it is, we complain that the NFL demands so much of the seniors in the way of scouting combines. They would struggle hard through a playoff system.

SI: You've got USC on the upswing again, and—except for not beating Notre Dame again—you've made it look easy. What's your secret?

JR: It's no secret. I told my coaches, first year, if we're not in the top five in recruiting, we're fired. It might take a while for them to fire us, but it would be written in stone. When we came in, we looked at the talent and we realized we had problems. We couldn't do it. We had a good quarterback in Rob Johnson, but one of the biggest mistakes is to ask too much of a quarterback. We tried to get the best out of what we had.

SI: So USC is a contender again?

quality of player. When you look at teams that contend, you look at the entire squad, best player to least talented. Some years you have a team like Penn State, with three outstanding players, and you ride on those shoulders. But everybody else on that team was good too. Two years ago we didn't have that. Now we do. We're still young. And we'll play 25 sophomores—a lot. Not start them, but play. Sometimes I worry they'll play like sophomores, but then I remember that our '78 national championship team was that kind of team. There weren't any stars. Everybody said, "Next year." And we won the national championship. For a team

to win, something's got to happen to it, it's got to become a *team*. And it has a better chance to happen on a team without stars.

SI: How do you evaluate the Pac-10 race?

JR: We'll have to beat UCLA and Arizona. And I think you've got to put Oregon in there. A lot of people want to underrate Oregon and say that last year was a once-in-a-lifetime season, especially with their quarterback [Danny O'Neil] and coach [Rich Brooks] gone. But they've got a good team. Arizona has



"These athletes shouldn't be living on the edge of poverty. I think the scholarship should just include more."

been and will be good. UCLA had difficulty with injuries last year. When they were healthy, they were good. They're also a little bit like us—they've got to solve the quarterback problem. But a lot of times, that's not as big a problem as it seems.

SI: This is your third year back.

SI: This is your third year back. Why isn't that old student body right working?

JR: When I came back, I called Bill Walsh at Stanford, who'd gone through the same thing. I wanted to know what was different. He said, "You know, the coaching is very good on this level." And some of the best coaches aren't even at the "power" schools. What Rich Brooks did at Oregon, Bill Snyder at Kansas State, those are fabulous coaching jobs. Today you see a lot of variety. In the old days, all you had to do was run the ball

and play defense, and those were things that SC did dramatically well. When we lined up against a standard defense and rushed for 400 yards, the defense did nothing but absorb it. Now they bring 10, 11 guys up.

SI: So how are you adapting?

JR: I still believe you must have a dominating defense to be national champion. The first two years we didn't have the physical resources to dominate defensively. We're better now. We have a lot of players who are more aggressive up front. And we're going back to those 3–4 defenses that everybody played—like when Lawrence Taylor was with the Giants—where the defense kicks the hell out of everybody. Those other [attacking] defenses make statistical records, but defenses that gamble always lose the big games.

SI: And offensively?

JR: The balance must be perfect, like it is with the Dallas Cowboys. Emmitt Smith runs, and there's a pass. It should not be a pure shock that [former USC assistant] Norv Turner created that offense. You've got to play all phases well to win today.

SI: Finally, do you have any plans to relocate the Trojans to Oakland?

JR: Well, I am a Bay Area guy, you know. But I like the idea of us and UCLA being the only game in town. It's a great game, and we've got it all to ourselves.

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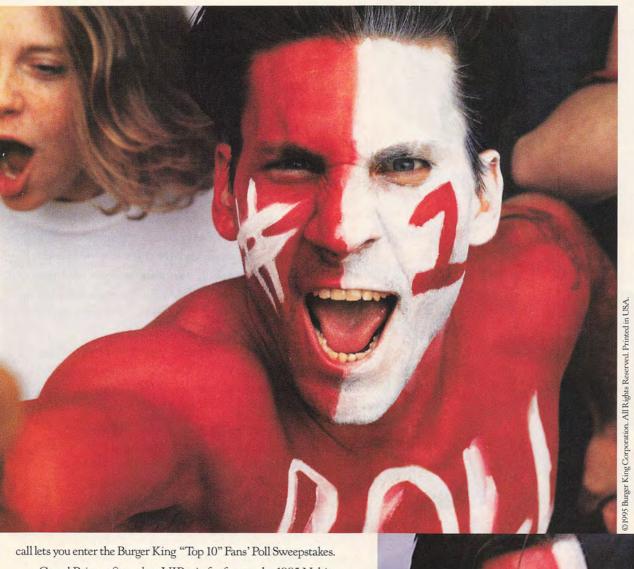
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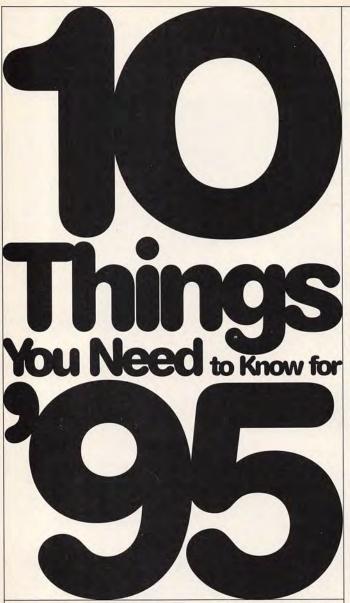
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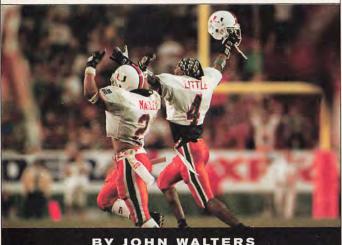
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BEFORE THE OPENING KICKOFF ARRIVES, YOU'D

BE WISE TO PERUSE THIS PRESEASON PRIMER



BY JOHN WALTERS

The longest season, the longest list of participating teams since 1982, even the longest All-America candidate in the sport's history. Compared with college football '95, previous seasons have a hard time measuring up.

Head to toe, the schedule spans 130 days, which eclipses by one day the previous record length of the 1990 and '92 seasons. It begins on Aug. 26, when Virginia travels to Ann Arbor to face Michigan in the Pigskin Classic (a.k.a. the Onside Kickoff Classic; it deviously usurps the role of the more august Aug. 27 Kickoff Classic), and ends on the night of Jan. 2 in Tempe, Ariz., with the Fiesta Bowl, which-if all goes according to the new bowl alliance blueprint-will be the national title game. In fact, because that game begins at 8:30 p.m. EST, the season will most likely not end until Jan. 3 for folks on the East Coast. And because the NCAA recently adopted an overtime playoff for all postseason bowl games, by which the outcome cannot be decided until one team scores, the season could conceivably never end. Or at least not until Jan. 28, when the NFL will stage Super Bowl XXX on the selfsame Sun Devil Stadium turf.

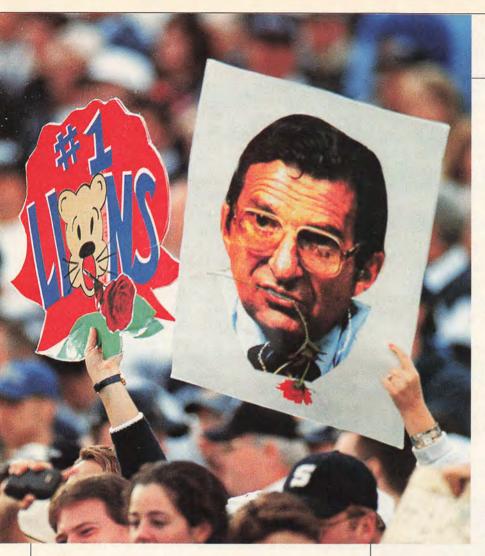
Head to toe, the Division I-A roster expands by one team, to 108. (Welcome, North Texas!) Head to toe, Nevada senior offensive tackle Mike Rockwood, an All-Big West selection last year, measures 84 inches, making him Division I-A's first All-America candidate to stand seven feet tall or, in gridiron parlance, "a long two." And lest we forget, 21 new head coaches will toe the sidelines this fall.

Overhead? About 10,000 feet overhead is where UNLV second-year coach Jeff Horton will begin 1995. By leading the Rebels to a share of the Big West title in '94, he prolonged his honeymoon in Vegas; now, as part of a publicity stunt, he has agreed to recreate a scene from the film. Instead of taking the field by running through a tunnel, he (provided the logistical details can be ironed out) will parachute into Sam Boyd Stadium, escorted by the Flying Elvises. So thanks to Horton, UNLVIS has a chance to make its first touchdown of the season before the opening kickoff.

Directly overhead, the NCAA has instituted some funky new helmet rules for '95. First, players will no longer be allowed to remove their helmets while on the field. This should shave at least 10 minutes off Miami games.

Second, following much heated debate, the NCAA has voted to "require all players on a team to wear helmets of the same color." (Had this been a problem?) Failure to adhere to the helmet-removal ban will result in a 15-yard personal-foul penalty; a player wearing a different-colored helmet will cost his team a timeout and, when those are gone, a five-yard penalty.

Under toes? A retro movement, a grassroots movement, actually. Six schools-Arkansas, California, Georgia Tech, Missouri, Utah and Virginia-have returned their stadiums to grass surfaces for 1995, bringing the total of such I-A venues to 58. The pendulum has swung: For the first time since the mid-1970s, more than half of the teams in I-A will be playing on the potentially muddy stuff. While we're on the subject of mud, has anyone figured out a way to solve the muddled national championship mess? And what else is in store for the upcoming season? Here's what you need to know:



All signs suggest that Paterno won't be a secondhand Rose this season.

ranked teams will definitely play at one or both of these sites, and only 370 miles of desert—traversable via I-10—separate them. But assuming you start your journey near the midway point in Blythe, Calif., in which direction should you head? Here are a few road signs that may help point the way.

FLORIDA: In all but one of the last 10 seasons, the state of Florida either hosted the national title game or had a representative in the game that produced the champion (the exception was 1988, when Notre Dame defeated West Virginia in the Fiesta Bowl). This year's national championship will not be settled in the Sunshine State, so if form holds true, look for a Florida school—specifically, whoever emerges victorious from the Florida State–Florida game in Gainesville on Nov. 25—to be in Tempe on January 2.

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.: The last two national champs, Florida State and Nebraska, began their campaigns at the Meadowlands in the Kickoff Classic. This year's game pits Boston College against Ohio State, both long shots for a ring. However, Penn State visits Giants Stadium on Sept. 23 to play Rutgers. And

as if coach Joe Paterno needed any help fueling up for the '95 season, his Lions could also find themselves at the ...

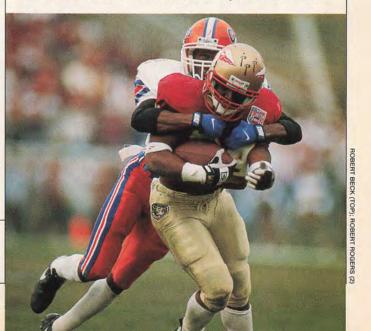
BOBBY BOWDEN SERVICE AREA: the place where, whenever two schools are tied with the nation's best record after the bowls, the institution whose coach is seen by the voters as most

1 The alliance replaces the coalition. Webster's defines coalition as "a temporary alliance," so it is only fitting that after three years and but one true incontrovertible national champ (Alabama, in '92), the bowl coalition has ceded its power to the bowl alliance. The difference? "Three tier-one bowls—the Fiesta, Sugar and Orange—but no host conferences," says Atlantic Coast Conference assistant commissioner Tom Mickle, one of the plan's architects.

Had the bowl alliance been in place a year ago, it still would not have effected a national championship showdown between unbeatens Nebraska and Penn State. As Big Ten champ, the Nittany Lions were obligated to play in the Rose Bowl. Similar confusion could arise this year, but fans shouldn't be too worried, because ...

**2.** There is a road to the national title. In 1995 it is Interstate 10, which runs three miles west of Sun Devil Stadium and seven miles south of Pasadena. The two top-

There'll be no hats off for the Hurricanes (left), but the Florida State-Florida game will impact the title picture.

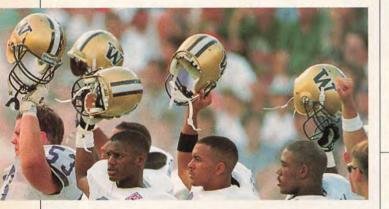


deserving is awarded the title. Christened in 1993 after FSU finished with one loss—as did both Notre Dame and Nebraska—and was voted No. 1 largely on the charisma of its beloved coach, Bowden, this oasis was visited by the Huskers last fall when Tom Osborne led them down the same highway. Now Paterno, whose undefeated '94 season was his fourth in 29 years to go unrewarded with a title, can see it on the horizon. Come Jan. 3, it will not be enough for a school to have a record unsurpassed by anybody else in I-A; that school must also have one more win or one fewer loss than Penn State.

Three contenders for the crown, by the way, are schools that serve as vivid proof that ...

**3.** Probation is not the end of the world. Far from it. The '90s have witnessed eight schools navigate through a season unbeaten. Three of them—Auburn, Texas A & M and Washington—were on probation last year. All three are playing for keeps in '95.

Funny that the only difference between the words probation and approbation are the letters a and p, as in AP poll. A year ago that was the only poll that recognized the Tigers, the Aggies and the Huskies. This year the coaches' poll will acknowledge them as well, and will not waste any time doing so: Auburn and A & M should begin the season in the Top 5, and UW, sporting a new look—purple helmets instead of gold—will certainly be in the Top 20. And all three should conclude the season in the Top 20 as well . . . unless, of course, a helmet imbroglio erupts in



### SIDELINE SIDESHOW:

Date	School	Former coach
Nov. 1	Ohio	Tom Lichtenberg (fired)
Nov. 4	Iowa State	Jim Walden (resigned)
Nov. 8	Georgia Tech	Bill Lewis (resigned)
Nov. 8	Michigan St.	George Perles (fired)
Nov. 15	LSU	Curley Hallman (fired)
Nov. 19	Akron	Gerry Faust (reassigned)
Nov. 19	Colorado	Bill McCartney (resigned)
Nov. 21	Oklahoma	Gary Gibbs (resigned)
Nov. 22	Oklahoma St.	Pat Jones (resigned)
Nov. 28	Stanford	Bill Walsh (resigned)
Dec. 2	Mississippi	Joe Lee Dunn (interim, replaced)
Dec. 4	Navy	George Chaump (fired)
Dec. 13	Memphis	Chuck Stobart (fired)
Dec. 13	Vanderbilt	Gerry DiNardo (took job at LSU)
Dec. 17	E. Michigan	Ron Cooper (took job at Louisville)
Déc. 17	Louisville	H. Schnellenberger (took job at Oklahoma)
Dec. 23	Utah State	Charlie Weatherbie (took job at Navy)
Jan. 12	Miami	Dennis Erickson (took job with Seattle Seahawks)
Feb. 10	Oregon	Rich Brooks (took job with St. Louis Rams)
Feb. 15	Ball State	Paul Schudel (took job as offensive coordinator at Illino
May 4	Michigan	Gary Moeller (resigned)

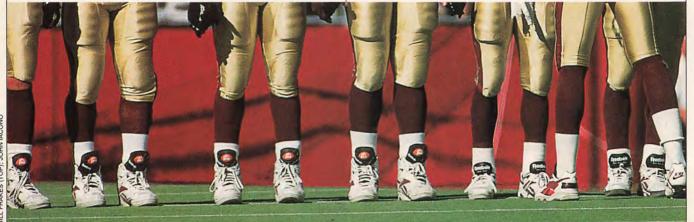
Seattle, leaving Husky players divided over which color helmets to don, thereby resulting in a rash of equipment-violation penalties that could very well determine the outcome of a few games.

It's more likely, though, that the outcomes of Washington games will be determined by Husky quarterback Damon Huard, who will be airing it out this season. And he won't be the only one. Which is why...

#### 4 Defenses will be loading up to stop the pass.

Look for many secondaries to switch from three-deep to four-deep zones this season. The reason is twofold: The hash

The Huskies will abandon their gold headwear, though speed seekers believe the secret lies in white shoes.



Continue and carried and and



New coach (alma mater, class) Jim Grobe (Virginia '75) Dan McCarney (Iowa '75) George O'Leary (New Hampshire '68) Nick Saban (Kent '73) Gerry DiNardo (Notre Dame '75) Lee Owens (Bluffton '77) Rick Neuheisel (UCLA '84) H. Schnellenberger (Kentucky '56) Bob Simmons (Bowling Green '71) Tyrone Willingham (Michigan State '77) Tommy Tuberville (Southern Arkansas '76) Charlie Weatherbie (Oklahoma State '77) William Scherer (William & Mary '74) Rod Dowhower (San Diego State '68) Rick Rasnick (San Jose State '82) Ron Cooper (Jacksonville State '83) John L. Smith (Weber State '71) Butch Davis (Arkansas '73) Mike Bellotti (UC Davis '73) Bill Lynch (Butler '77)

Lloyd Carr (Northern Michigan '68)

**Previous position** Linebackers coach, Air Force, 1984-94 Defensive coordinator, Wisconsin, 1989-94 Interim head coach, Georgia Tech, 1994 Defensive coordinator, Cleveland Browns, 1991-94 Head coach, Vanderbilt, 1991-94 Assistant tight ends coach, Ohio State, 1992-94 Quarterbacks coach, Colorado, 1994 Head coach, Louisville, 1985-94 Assistant head coach, Colorado, 1988-94 Running backs coach, Minnesota Vikings, 1992-94 Defensive coordinator, Texas A&M, 1994 Head coach, Utah State, 1992-94 Head coach, James Madison, 1991-94 Quarterbacks coach, Cleveland Browns, 1994 Offensive coordinator, Utah, 1991-94 Head coach, Eastern Michigan, 1993-94 Head coach, Idaho, 1989-94 Defensive coordinator, Dallas Cowboys, 1989-94 Offensive coordinator, Oregon, 1989-94 Quarterbacks coach, Indiana, 1993-94

Defensive coordinator, Michigan, 1980-94



marks were moved closer to the middle of the field two years ago, and as a result, wide-open passing attacks such as those successfully employed by Colorado, Florida and Oregon have come into vogue.

On offense, you can expect multiple formations to multiply. These formations have already produced a salmagundi of nontraditional names for backs used in nontraditional ways: Tulsa has an F-back position, Maryland a superback and Arizona State a flyback. Purdue's Mike Alstott, who led the Boilermakers in rushing (1,188 yards) a year ago from his fullback spot, is a throwback.

The buzzword, however, is still speed. "Washington State and Arizona had two of the best defenses in the country the last couple of years," says USC receivers coach Mike Sanford. "They weren't very big, but they were very, very fast."

Coaches are obsessed with speed. Florida and Washington headline a growing list of schools switching back to white shoes because, as a Nike representative says, "their coaches think it makes their players look faster." Coaches will seemingly do anything to add speed to their rosters. Witness Kentucky quarterback Jeff Speedy, who has good speed; and Akron guard Greg Goodspeed, who does not. But not even Speedy is as speedy as Navy strong safety Joe Speed, who runs the 40 in 4.67.

Some coaches, especially the new ones, just want to get off to a fast start, which reminds us that ...

Most of Division I-A's 21 first-year head coaches (chart, above) will hit the road on Labor Day weekend, though it will be no

Schnellenberger (top) will skipper the Sooners, and Simmons has ridden into town to lead the Cowboys.

day at the beach: Tommy Tuberville takes Mississippi to Auburn, Gerry DiNardo takes his LSU crew to Texas A & M, and Michigan's Lloyd Carr is planning a father-son outing (his son Jason is the Wolverines' backup quarterback) at Illinois.

Other intriguing Labor Day weekend coaching debuts: Rick Neuheisel and Colorado travel to Madison, his birthplace, to play Wisconsin. Miami's Butch Davis returns to the Rose Bowl—where he won a Super Bowl ring as a Dallas Cowboy assistant in 1993—for the Hurricanes' showdown with UCLA. And Jim Grobe and Dan McCarney, the new fall guys at Ohio and Iowa State, respectively, face off to decide which school will win its first game since 1993.

Of course, those aren't the only games we'll be looking forward to, because ...

There are several very intriguing intersectional matchups this season. Call them college football's version of Must-See TV; these new or long-dormant regional clashes will be well worth tuning in for: Sept. 9, Nebraska at Michigan State; Sept. 23, Texas A & M at Colorado; Sept. 30, Notre Dame at Ohio State; Oct. 7, N.C. State at Alabama.

One that is not: Sept. 2: Houston at Florida.

And one that was scheduled this off-season (to be played in 1999), which will most likely pit son against father: Auburn at Florida State.

PHIL HUBER (2





Auburn, incidentally, is one example of another interesting trend this season ...

Don't be surprised to see several national title contenders change quarterbacks. Flashback to last September: Florida quarterback Terry Dean has tossed 13 TD passes in the Gators' first three games, Florida is atop the polls, and Dean is the leader in the Heisman straw vote. Flashback to last October: Dean throws four picks against Auburn, and Danny Wuerffel is Steve Spurrier's new starter. While no other coach of a highly ranked team wields the hook like Spurrier (amazing, isn't it, that his wife, Jerri, has



"T" is for "trouble," which aptly describes the brutal schedule confronting Bobby Hoying's Buckeyes.

remained first string for 28 years?), many a coach among the Top 20 teams will be tempted to dial the bullpen this fall if the offense stalls.

Does USC's John Robinson replace probable starter Kyle Wachholtz with Brad Otton? Will Auburn's Terry Bowden nix Patrick Nix in favor of Dameyune Craig? Will the Tommie Frazier–Brook Berringer tug-of-war continue at Nebraska? If Miami's Davis benches Ryan Collins in favor of Ryan Clement, will rapper Luther Campbell sing?

And don't forget Wuerffel. Last spring Spurrier coyly remarked that his backup, Eric Kresser, had come a long way and has a stronger arm. Think Danny might be a little anxious about that game at Auburn on Oct. 14?

And while we're on the subject of tough games ...

Ohio State has the No. 1 killer schedule. There are nonconference dates with Boston College, Washington and Notre Dame; Big Ten sojourns to Penn State, Wisconsin and Michigan. Ouch.

Two that aren't far behind: Vanderbilt, whose new coach, Rod Dowhower, opens with Alabama and Notre Dame and closes at Florida and Tennessee (no wonder Gerry DiNardo abandoned ship); and Houston, which must journey to Florida, USC and Texas A & M. (Houston, you have a problem.)

And while we may have a problem with some of the rules committee's off-season doings, don't get the wrong idea, because ...

There are a few NCAA rules we like. Aside from the confusing mandate that players not remove their helmets (after all, how else are you supposed to check whether yours is the same color as your teammates'?) and the killjoy ban on

player celebrations, the NCAA has done some sensible tinkering. A player will now be ejected after his second unsportsmanlike-conduct penalty in one game. And defensive players who cross the line of scrimmage in hopes of spooking offensive linemen into an illegal-procedure penalty will themselves be hit with a five-yard flag.

And here's one for the point-spread mayens: If a touchdown is scored on the game's final play, the PAT must be conducted unless the trailing team deserts the field.

But wait, before you go ...

#### 10 Here's a little more news you can use:

• In the spirit of Lew Alcindor, UCLA tailback Sharmon Shah, a lifelong Muslim and a star Bruin who wears number 33, recently reaffirmed his Muslim faith.

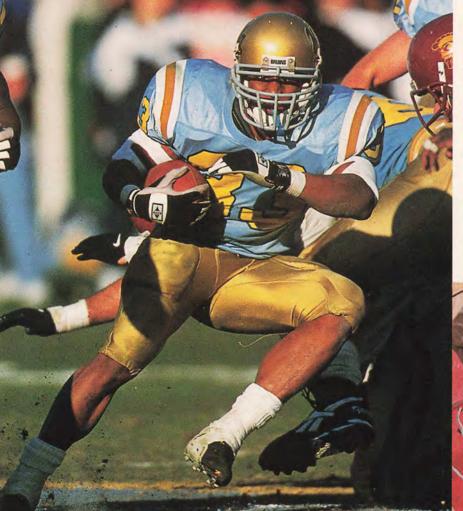
Jabbar's jersey number and aptitude for offense-and, oh yes, his new name-call to mind another UCLA great. Concomitant with his pledge is the adoption of a new Muslim name, selected not by Shah but by his imam, or prayer leader. And judging from the imam's choice, we may conclude that he must be either a) oblivious to the L.A. sports scene or b) a humorous fellow—because Sharmon Shah is now Karim Abdul-Jabbar.

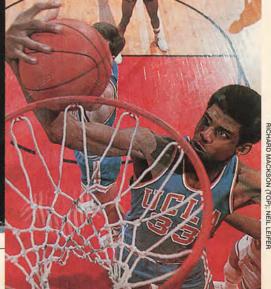
- ·LSU, which for three years had been trying to persuade the NCAA to permit home teams to wear white jerseys as long as it is okayed before the season by the visiting school, finally succeeded. So white Tigers will not be rare in the bayou this season.
- · Minnesota, which plays its home games in the Metrodome, has just one road game among its first five—in the Carrier Dome at Syracuse. The Golden Gophers will not play outdoors until Oct. 21 in East Lansing. So much for fall colors.
- Mississippi's Tuberville—who was Texas A & M's defensive coordinator last year and spent the previous eight years as a Miami assistant—has a personal 58-game home unbeaten

streak. That mark will most likely not grow beyond 61: Alabama visits on Oct. 21.

And that's a peek at the '95 season. Though it may appear supersized, '96 may be even bigger. At least three more I-AA teams will foray into I-A. The Big Eight will become the Big 12, and the WAC will add six new teams. Both conferences will likely also stage championship games.

"How many frontiers remain?" asks Colorado's towheaded Neuheisel. Perhaps only Earth itself. Next season Ireland will play host to Navy-Notre Dame, and New Zealand will serve as the site for the inaugural Haka Bowl on New Year's Day. North to south, head to toe, any way you measure it, college football is expanding.





# COLEGE FOOTBALL MILESTONE

#### **PRESEASON BOWLS**

#### Aug. 26

The season kicks off with a Virginia-Michigan matchup in the Pigskin Classic in Ann Arbor. The following day, Boston College takes on Ohio State in the Kickoff Classic in East Rutherford, N.J.

#### **MILESTONES**

#### Sept. 2

Miami at UCLA. Rookie coach Butch Davis takes his Hurricanes to L.A. to face the Bruins. This is only the second meeting between the two; UCLA won 39–37 in the '85 Fiesta Bowl.

Northwestern at Notre Dame. With an Irish win, Lou Holtz would become the 15th coach to reach 200 career victories in Division I-A.

#### Oct. 7

Virginia at North Carolina. This is the 100th matchup between these ACC rivals. The Tar Heels lead the series 53-42-4.

#### **BIG GAME**

#### Oct. 7

Miami at Florida State. This meeting in Tallahassee marks the 27th straight year that the Sunshine State's bitter rivalry has been played out. The Hurricanes have won four of the last five.

#### SMTWTFS

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#### **MILESTONE**

#### Aug. 31

Ohio at Iowa State. Barring a tie, someone will get off the schneid when the Bobcats (0–11) visit the Cyclones (0-10-1) in a meeting of the only two winless teams in Division I-A last season.

#### **BIG GAMES**

#### Sept. 9

Colorado State at Colorado. In the first installment of this intrastate rivalry since 1992, the Rams try to show that their 10–2 record in 1994 was no fluke.

#### Sept. 16

Tennessee at Florida. The two premier teams from the SEC's Eastern Division square off in a game that could well determine which advances to the conference title game.

#### **MILESTONES**

#### Sept. 23

Cincinnati at Miami (Ohio). The Bearcats and the Redskins tangle for the 100th time, becoming only the sixth pair of teams to reach that mark. Miami leads the series 53-39-7.

#### Sept. 30

Grambling vs. Prairie View, at Dallas. By losing its first four games and then this one, Prairie View would break Macalester College's NCAA record of 50 consecutive losses.

Wisconsin at Penn State. Nittany Lion coach Joe Paterno moves past Eddie Anderson and into sixth place on the alltime list as he coaches his 345th Division I football game.

#### **BIG GAME**

#### Oct. 14

Florida at Auburn. The Tigers try for their third win in a row over the Gators, and this time it counts: Having endured probation for his first two seasons, Auburn coach Terry Bowden now has his sights set on a Sugar Bowl appearance.

#### **MILESTONE**

#### Oct. 21

Kansas at Oklahoma. In the longest continuous rivalry in college football history, the Jayhawks and the Sooners meet for the 93rd consecutive year; Oklahoma leads the series 62-24-6.

#### **BIG GAMES**

#### Oct. 21

USC at Notre Dame. The Trojans have not won in this classic matchup since 1982.

Kansas State at Nebraska. The Wildcats, who have lost their last 26 meetings with the Huskers, try to snap the skid in Lincoln.

#### Oct. 28

Florida at Georgia. Because of Gator Bowl renovations, this game will be played in Athens, Ga.—for the first time since 1932—instead of in Jacksonville.

#### **BIG SATURDAY**

Utah at BYU. The Utes and the Cougars lock horns in a battle for bragging rights in the WAC and in the state of Utah.

California at Stanford. Neither team is a Pac-10 title contender this season, but emotions will run high nonetheless in the 98th installment of the Big Game.

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#### **BIG SATURDAY** (continued)

#### Nov. 18

UCLA at USC. The annual battle for Southern California supremacy. Key stat: The Trojan football team is 11-6-1 alltime against schools that won the NCAA men's basketball championship the previous spring.

Michigan at Penn State. This new Big Ten rivalry has already produced a couple of epic battles, including last year's 31-24 Nittany Lion win.

Alabama at Auburn. The Crimson Tide is still seeking its first win at Auburn (0-2).

#### **MILESTONE**

#### Dec. 2

Texas at Texas A & M; Houston at Rice. The Longhorn-Aggie (2:30 p.m. CST kickoff) and Cougar-Owl (4:00) matchups will be the last football games in the 81-year history of the SWC.

#### **POSTSEASON**

#### Dec. 2

SEC championship game, Atlanta.

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#### **POSTSEASON**

Outback (formerly Hall of Fame) Bowl, Tampa.

Florida Citrus Bowl, Orlando.

Gator Bowl, Jacksonville.

Cotton Bowl, Dallas.

Rose Bowl, Pasadena.

Orange Bowl, Miami.

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16 18

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# **BIG GAMES**

#### Nov. 24

Oklahoma at Nebraska. The last Sooner-Husker clash before the two teams become members of the Big 12, where they will be in different divisions and play only every other year.

#### Nov. 25

Florida State at Florida. This rematch of last January's Sugar Bowl is also a matchup of the only two teams to finish in the Top 10 in each of the past four seasons.

#### **POSTSEASON**

#### Dec. 9

Heisman Trophy ceremony, New York City.

Division II championship game, Florence, Ala.

Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl (Division III championship game), Salem, Va.

#### Dec. 16

Division I-AA championship game, Huntington, W.Va.

#### Dec. 31

Sugar Bowl, New Orleans.

#### **POSTSEASON**

#### Jan. 2

Fiesta Bowl, Tempe, Ariz.



# The Best of Changes in the football landscape have produced four fierce new grudge matches By Kelli Anderson

A onetime WAC walkover, the BYU-Utah clash is now a titanic struggle.



he new quarterback was wiping the sweat from his brow after throwing three touchdown passes in BYU's spring game when the reporters gathered around. So, Steve Sarkisian, what are your goals for this season? "Well," said the next Jim McMahon

or Steve Young or Ty Detmer, "to be WAC champs and to beat Utah."

Beat Utah? The same Utah that the Cougars used to debase annually on their way to the WAC title? The same Utes who in more than a century of football (1892–1993) had been ranked in the AP Top 20 only once (No. 18, for one week in 1947) and whose defense was 106th—that's dead last—in the nation just six years ago? Shoot, you don't have to be all that old to remember when BYU's beating Utah was a given, not a goal.

But something weird has happened in the Wasatch Mountains. After a 20-year stretch in which Utah victories against BYU stood out like two lonely buttes in a vast salt flat, the Utes have now won two in a row. Suddenly the BYU-Utah game really matters.

And this is not an isolated phenomenon. All around the country there are matchups that were meaningless—or nonexistent—just a few years ago but now loom as some of the most titillating tilts of the season. Some even dare call them rivalries.

#### NOTRE DAME-BOSTON COLLEGE

#### October 28, 1995, at South Bend

Maybe not everybody looks forward to the Holy War with special enthusiasm, but sportswriters do. At this very moment, some scribe somewhere is considering what clever religious symbolism to use when the only two Catholic schools playing Division I football meet again this fall in South Bend. Will Jesuit BC suffer an "inquisition" and have to "call for last rites" in the midst of the Congregation of the Holy Cross–affiliated Notre Dame's "redemption," as in 1992? Will BC experience a "miracle," as in 1993, or will it "defrock" the Irish, as in 1994? And what fine tricks will one coach conjure up to humiliate the other? Will there be a fake field goal? Another fake punt?

Like sportswriters, BC students eagerly anticipate the game. Soon after the Eagles' win last year in Boston, a cop ticked off the expected celebration casualties: "There will be calls to take kids to the hospital for alcohol poisoning, there will be injuries...."





And Notre Dame students, though more reluctant to admit it, also relish the matchup. "For current students, BC is definitely the big game," says Notre Dame junior Tim Sherman. "We've beaten USC 12 straight times, so that rivalry has lost its luster. BC is the game my friends and I will come back to year after year."

So, does Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz look forward to the BC game every year? "Southern Cal is the only game we look forward to in the sense that it's a continuous rivalry," Holtz said last year. "Is there anything else?"

Forgive Holtz for being slow to recognize the Eagle-Irish rivalry. After all, it wasn't supposed to be like this. Back in 1986, when Notre Dame scheduled Boston College for a 14-year series to begin in '92, do you think the Irish thought they would be taking on a team that could wreck their national championship hopes and steal their bragging rights at the Vatican? Pardon the language, but hell no.

Notre Dame had beaten Boston College in each of their three previous meetings (1975, '83 and '87), and the Eagles were wallowing in mediocrity after a brief moment in the sun in the early '80s when the team was led by Heisman Trophy–winning quarterback Doug Flutie. Boston College, in other words, had patsy written all over it. The fact that it was a Catholic patsy only made Notre Dame look benevolently fraternal.

So picture the Irish on Nov. 20, 1993: They had just knocked off Florida State in the so-called Game of the Century for the No. 1 ranking and were facing 17th-ranked BC, a team they had humiliated 54–7 the year before, employing a fake punt with the score 37–0. It was Senior Day, a time for preening and for anticipating the glory of the national title the Irish were expecting to win.

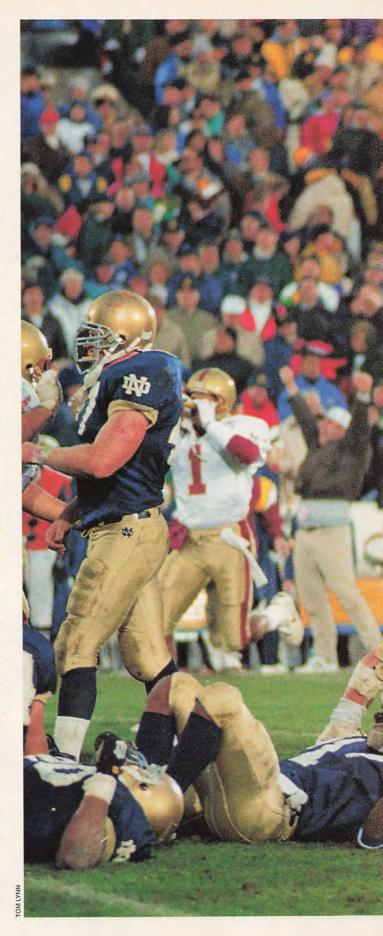
But when Boston College went up 38–17 early in the fourth quarter—largely on the strength of an offensive line anchored by tackle Pete Kendall, a prized recruit Holtz had lost to the Eagles three years before—Golden Domers were not thinking about what a lovely rivalry this had become. In the next nine minutes, though, Notre Dame soothed the faithful by scoring 22 points to go ahead 39–38, leaving BC just 61 seconds to try to do something about it.

On their final drive, the Eagles reached the Irish 24-yard line with five seconds left. Walk-on kicker David Gordon, the MVP of his high school tennis and soccer teams, strolled onto the field and faced Touchdown Jesus.

Now, we don't know what irked the Irish more: the fact that Gordon made good on the 41-yard kick, snuffing out Notre Dame's title hopes, or the fact that a picture of BC fans storming the field—Notre Dame's field—while the scoreboard read NOTRE DAME 39, BOSTON COL 41 made it into a national magazine. But rumor has it that the final score hung in the Irish locker room throughout the next season. Still, no one in South Bend would even whisper the word *rivalry*.

GOD IS GOOD ... AND SO WAS GORDON'S KICK read one of the T-shirts seen in Boston the following season when the Irish made their first-ever visit to Alumni Stadium. The press, however, was more respectful of the Irish. Local sportswriters predicted that Notre Dame would blow out the 11-point underdogs by far more—unless, sniped one, Holtz brings the jayvee.

Holtz didn't bring the jayvee, but BC beat the spread by 30 anyway, faking a field goal in the second quarter and trying a two-point conversion while sitting on a 19-point lead in the fourth. Says Kendall, recalling the fake punt of '92, "I hope we gave Lou Holtz a thousand ulcers."





#### NEW RIVALRIES

"It's always been a rivalry for BC," said Eagle coach Dan Henning after that 30–11 win. "I think Notre Dame thinks it's a rivalry now."

Not necessarily. "We're very, very, very, very, very, very disappointed," said Holtz after that game, "but life goes on."

That's it, Lou? You mean you're not going to fume over the hated Eagles' behavior and vow vengeance upon BC's return to South Bend? We're very, very, very, very, very, very disappointed.

Like life, though, the series goes on—at least through 2005—so Holtz will have more opportunities to ponder the nature of Boston College versus Notre Dame. But for now, as one grim Fighting Irish fan noted after last year's game, "God is still a Jesuit."

#### NEBRASKA-COLORADO

#### October 28, 1995, at Boulder

If Nebraska's Tom Osborne and Colorado's Rick Neuheisel have their way, the Cornhusker-Buffalo game this season just won't be any fun at all. Each coach is saying that his team will not reserve any special venom for the other this year, even after Neuheisel's predecessor, Bill McCartney, spent years trying to instill some healthy rancor into the matchup. But why should we trust them? Neuheisel is a rookie coach. As for Osborne, he never even acknowledged Oklahoma as a special foe, despite the fact that the Huskers or the Sooners either won outright or shared the Big Eight title in every season from 1962 to '88. When asked the rivalry question for the umpteenth time last October as the third-ranked Cornhuskers were preparing to meet the second-ranked Buffaloes, Osborne got testy. "We just don't have any rivals," said Osborne, sounding as if he were being forced to discuss an imaginary creature everyone could see but him. "We never have. We've never bought into that type of thinking. So don't ask me about it."

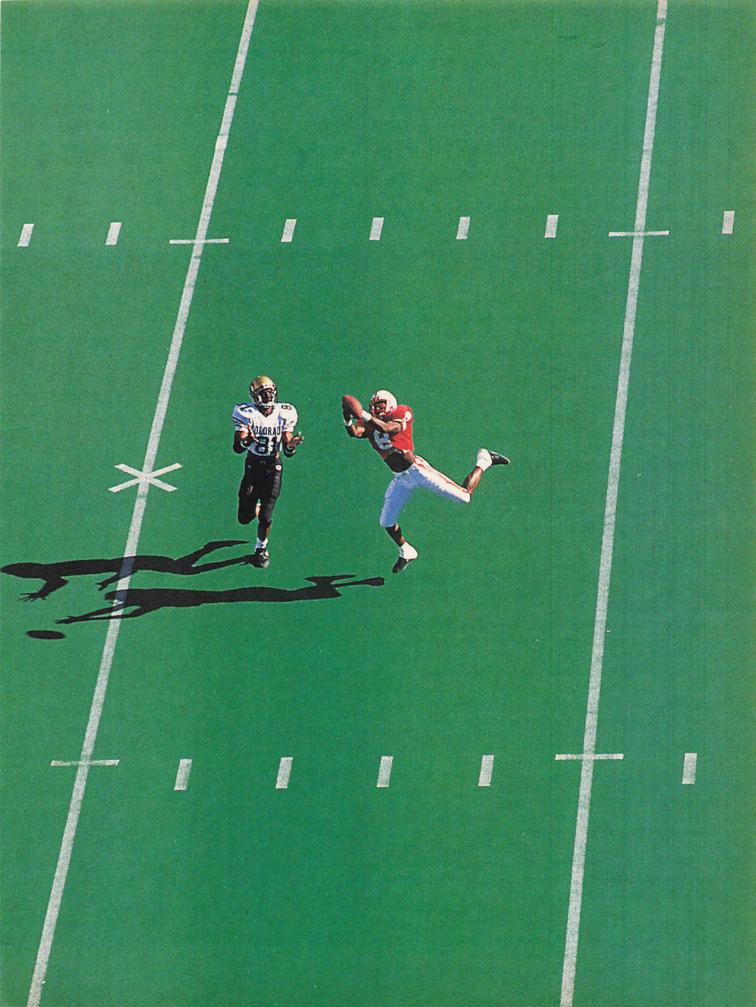
"If the Huskers don't want to be our rival," says Neuheisel, "we don't want to be their rival, either."

Hey, guys, get out from under your wet blankets and listen up. Since 1989 the game that has decided the Big Eight champion has been Nebraska-Colorado, and it is a matchup that is sure to loom even larger after 1996. That's when the Big Eight morphs into the Big 12 and Oklahoma becomes part of the South Division while Colorado and Nebraska become part of the North. Remember when Oklahoma-Nebraska used to play on TV the day after Thanksgiving? From '96 forward, Tom and Rick, it's you two who will be lighting the holiday ire.

Now, we realize your schools don't have a lot in common. You go after different types of students: At Colorado the average SAT score is 1150; at Nebraska, if you've graduated from high school—a *Nebraska* high school—you're in. And the city of Boulder doesn't have anything that can compare to the pleasure of pulling off the Cornhusker Highway in Lincoln to shop at the Cornhusker Flea Market before checking in at the Cornhusker Hotel.

We also know that this rivalry (our term, O.K., guys?) was once just a figment of McCartney's imagination. He was hired in 1982 to take over a program that had gone 3–8 the year before, and he decided to set his sights high by proclaiming Nebraska, coming off a 9–3 season and an Orange Bowl appearance, Colorado's chief rival. To make sure there was no mistaking his point, McCartney had the Nebraska game printed in red on the Buffaloes' schedules, banned red clothing from practice and even scolded local reporters for using red pens. At

Let the coaches downplay it, but when Husker meets Buffalo, the Big Eight is up for grabs.



the time, Colorado had no natural rival, and Nebraska, as McCartney would later explain, "seemed like the logical team. It was a bordering state. They were a lot better than us, but we went through with it."

The Buffs wouldn't beat Nebraska until 1986, toppling the thirdranked Huskers 20–10 in a game that would catapult Colorado's program into the national spotlight for the first time since the mid-1970s, prompting Colorado fans to embrace McCartney's cause. They welcome Big Red fans to Boulder by dousing them with beer and slashing tires on cars with Nebraska plates. The Denver radio talk shows spark the airwaves with jokes about Nebraskans (Why doesn't Nebraska have ice on the sideline anymore? The guy with the recipe graduated) that became such a rage before last year's game that rumors of retaliatory Buffalo jokes reached some usually unreceptive ears. "I've heard we are starting Colorado jokes," said an alarmed Tom Osborne in a pregame teleconference.

Nebraska fans, ordinarily such good sports that they have been known to give standing ovations to teams that beat the Huskers, have never taken the Buff guff sitting down. Anyone who doubts that the Colorado conflict has brought out a dark side in Nebraska boosters should compare the sentiments expressed in a banner displayed during the Oklahoma-Nebraska game in 1971—DEAR SOONERS: ROSES ARE RED, VIOLETS ARE BLUE, WE'RE NUMBER ONE AND YOU'RE NUMBER TWO—to this one seen on the road to Lincoln in 1990, referring to former Colorado quarterback Sal Aunese, who died of stomach cancer in 1989: SAL IS DEAD. GO BIG RED.

Though Nebraska players tend to take Osborne's view on the game—"Colorado is just Kansas State to me," tight end Johnny Miller said before the game in 1991—at least some students pay it meaningful tribute. On Nebraska's campus last year, several Buff players were hanged or buried in effigy before the game. "They decided they didn't like us," student Greg Metschke told *The Sporting News*, "so we don't like them."

"After Oklahoma died out, we needed to pick someone else up," added another Nebraska student, Jason Newport. "And Colorado is the best team out there."

Even the best team out there has bad days, and Colorado has had many against Nebraska. The Buffs were beaten 24–7 last year—their third straight loss to the Huskers—and went 3-9-1 during the McCartney era despite, or maybe because of, the red-letter treatment.

Neuheisel's plan to de-emphasize the matchup "will take away some of the jitters," says Buff quarterback Koy Detmer. "But we'll still be gunning for them. It'll be a good, clean, hard-fought game."

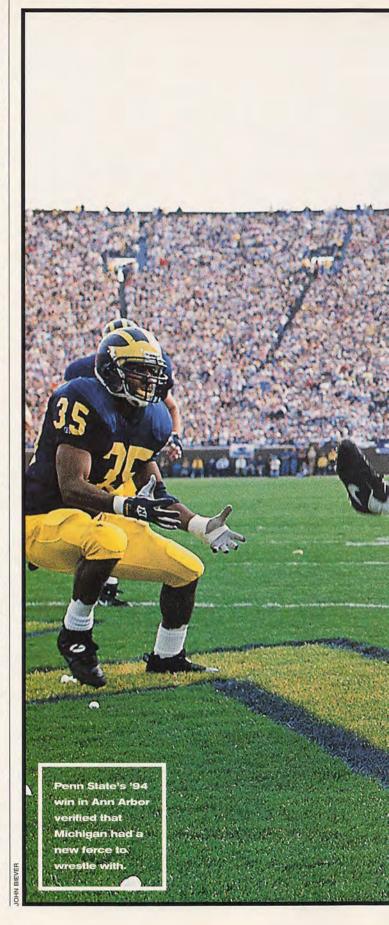
Fine. Maybe now we'll finally get to hear some good, clean Buffalo jokes.

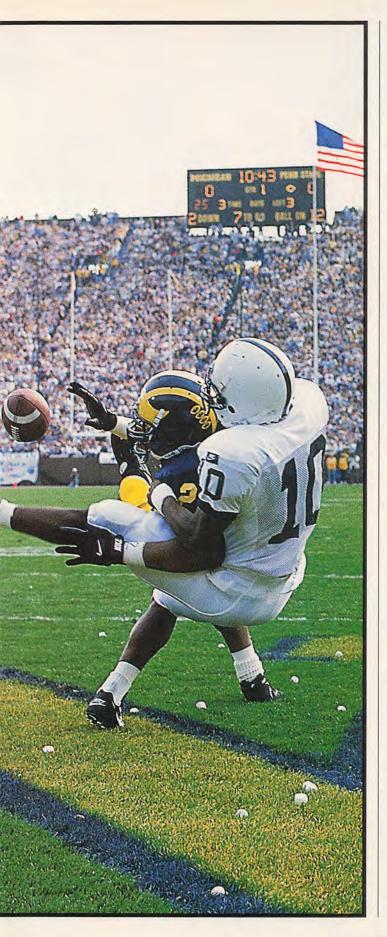
#### PENN STATE-MICHIGAN

#### November 18, 1995, at State College

On the third Saturday in November, Division I's dullest helmets will knock against its funkiest, and it's not going to be pretty. "We've threatened their turf, and they're very hungry," says Penn State junior Freddie Scott, sounding more like a wildlife ecologist tracking wolves than a wide receiver scouting Wolverines. "This game will be huge for them. We're going to have a lot to deal with."

Scott should know. Even before last year, when he and his team had the poor manners to beat Michigan and win the Big Ten title in only their second season in the conference, Scott had to deal with a lot from





Michigan people. A Wolverine fan as a child growing up in Detroit, he nevertheless spurned Michigan for Penn State. His decision came even after a showy recruiting weekend that saw his high school friend Chris Webber and fellow Fabs play national champion Duke in Ann Arbor, and Wolverine Desmond Howard win the Heisman Trophy in New York City.

Scott's friends, of course, couldn't understand what had gotten into him. Those who knew anything about Pennsylvania's land grant institution quickly pointed out its deficiencies to him. Didn't he know it was off in the hills in the middle of nowhere? Didn't he know that they're the ones who wear those uncool uniforms? Scott, who says he "just felt comfortable" during his recruiting visit to State College, had some explaining to do. "Some friends," he says, "didn't even know what Penn State was."

Well, they know now. It's the monochromatic team from nowhere that has the Big Ten title Michigan once monopolized. And that, of course, has led the Michigan players to treat the Nittany Lions with special regard. "This year," says Michigan junior tight end Pierre Cooper, "we gotta go back and treat them like the stepchild they are."

This year's family drama will be played out at Penn State's Beaver Stadium, the scene of Michigan's celebrated goal-line stand two years ago. Late in the third quarter of that game, Penn State had the ball on the one-yard line and ran not once, not twice, but four times up the middle, to no avail. Michigan went on to win the game 21–13 as the visiting Wolverine fans chanted, "Welcome to the Big Ten."

Last season in Ann Arbor, Penn State kicked up its feet and made itself right at home. The Lions not only beat Michigan 31–24 in Michigan Stadium—thereby inspiring thrilled fans in State College to storm *Beaver* Stadium and tear out chunks of turf as souvenirs—but they also went through their entire schedule undefeated and broke the Wolverines' Big Ten scoring record by averaging 48 points a game.

Now that Penn State has a Big Ten title and a Rose Bowl victory, the Nittany Lions are eyeing other things that once were the domain of the Wolverines. Like 100,000-plus crowds. According to coach Joe Paterno, Beaver Stadium, which has an official capacity of 93,967, could hold more fans than 102,501-seat Michigan Stadium if the 18-inch-wide seats were narrowed by half an inch or so. "We could have 106,000 seats by reducing the seats to the same size as Michigan's," Paterno joked last fall. "Some of our fans wouldn't look forward to that."

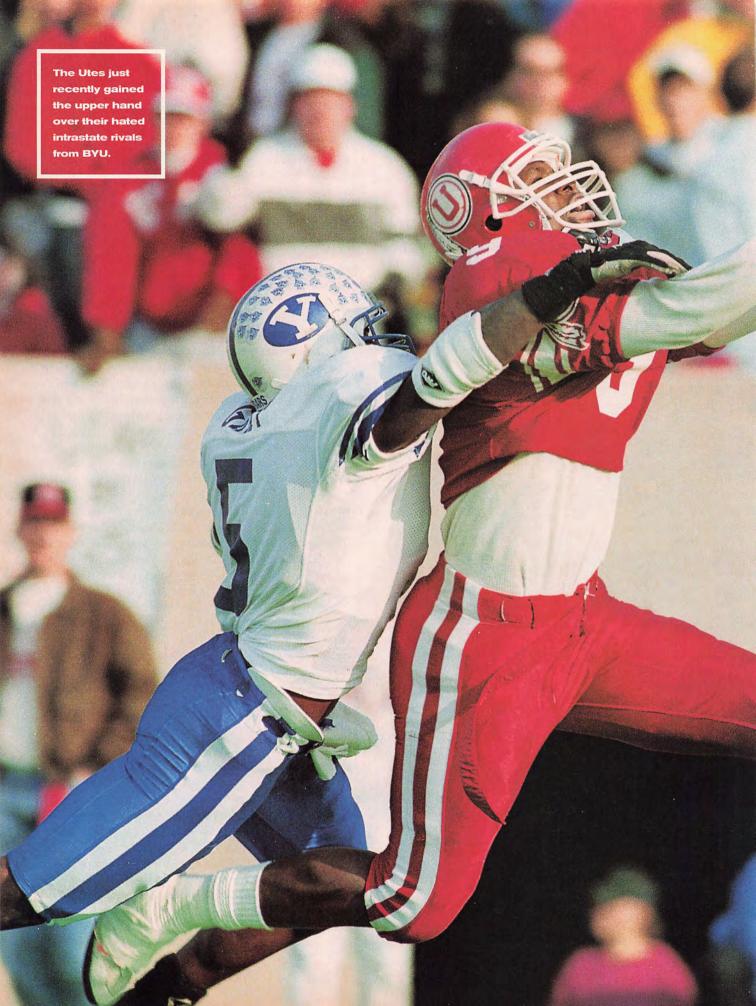
It wouldn't be pretty, Joe, but keeping up with Michigan should be worth any sacrifice.

#### BYU-UTAH

#### November 18, 1995, at Provo

When Utah senior defensive linemen Jeff and Henry Kaufusi walk into BYU's Cougar Stadium in November, the Brigham Young coaching staff will be looking at two very big reasons to feel regret. The Kaufusis, natives of Tonga who made up one fourth of the defensive line rotation on the nation's 18th-best defense last year, might have been Cougars just like their older brothers, Rich and Steve, had BYU come up with a scholarship for Henry two years ago. You hurt one Kaufusi, you hurt them all—and there are a lot of them.

Younger brother Doug, another defensive lineman, will join the Utes in 1997, after his Mormon mission is finished. Jason, a talented junior tight end and defensive end in high school in Salt Lake City, is leaning toward playing for Utah. Perhaps most painful of all





for BYU, former Cougar Steve Kaufusi is now coaching the Utah defensive line and making huge recruiting gains for the Utes among Polynesian-Americans in Utah, California and Hawaii.

"I definitely hold a grudge in my heart for BYU because they hurt Henry," says Jeff, a 6'7", 255-pound end. "And of course Henry feels that way too."

The Kaufusis are not the only reason BYU must now pay attention to Utah. Led by sixth-year coach Ron McBride, Utah finished last season ranked No. 10 and played in its third consecutive bowl game. BYU had the further horror of seeing a Ute, defensive lineman Luther Elliss, go in the first round of the NFL draft while BYU's top gun, quarterback John Walsh, lingered until the seventh round. But it's the consecutive losses to Utah that really rankle BYU.

Last summer, the nationwide Bank One aired TV commercials featuring both McBride and BYU coach Lavell Edwards, who happen to be close friends. In it, Edwards is haunted by the final score of the first of those two losses, 34–31. Measuring Edwards for pants, the tailor (McBride) announces his waist and inseam: 34–31. When Edwards goes to Bank One to set up an account, the manager (McBride) gives him the account number 34–31. So how weird was it last fall when Utah beat BYU again 34–31? "Talk about cruel irony," says Edwards. "It was bad enough to lose, but by that score again?"

A popular bumper sticker in Salt Lake City reads: 34–31. GET USED TO IT. You have to forgive the Utes their smugness. They have suffered long in the shadow of what they see as a bastion of athletic success, religious righteousness and social conservatism. BYU students, about 98% of whom are Mormon, sign an honor code prohibiting drugs, alcohol, caffeine and premarital sex. Utah students, about 50% of whom are Mormon, do not take any such oath.

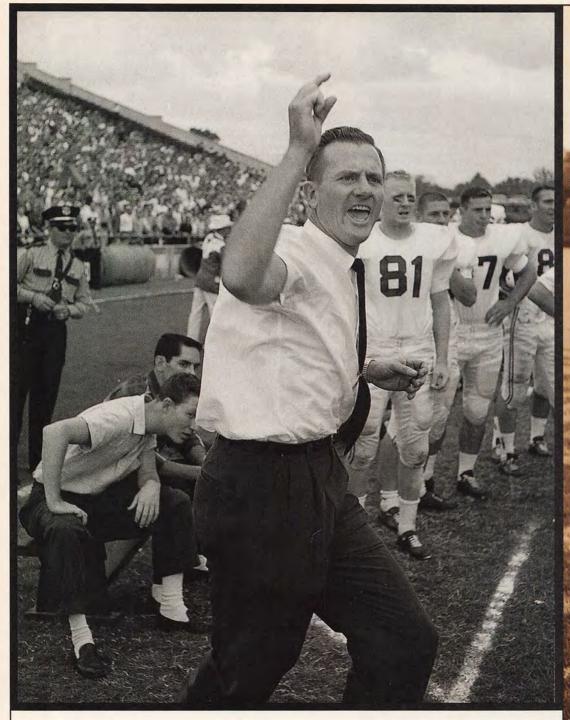
The contempt is mutual, as it has been throughout the 73-year history of this matchup. Until recently the series could be broken down into two epochs: the pre-Edwardian (1922–71), characterized by the national obscurity of both teams; and the Edwardian (1972–92), marked by BYU's rise to national prominence under Edwards. In the first, Utah usually won, often by huge margins. In the second, BYU usually won, often by huge margins.

A typical game of the latter-day era was one that occurred in 1977, a 38–8 blowout in which Marc Wilson returned to the field in the fourth quarter to set a then NCAA single-game record with 571 yards passing. After that game, Ute coach Wayne Howard spoke for Utah players, students and alums—and for every other member of the WAC—when he said, "The hatred between BYU and Utah is nothing compared to what it will be."

Meanwhile, BYU expects the worst whenever Utah pays a visit to Provo. The week before the game, BYU carefully plastic-bags the campus monuments to protect against an attack of red paint, and in the stadium it posts a large security force to contain the small number of Utah fans who actually attend. (With the 900 seats BYU allocates to Utah in 65,000-seat Cougar Stadium, Ute fans make up about 1.4% of the spectators. Their red attire in the sea of blue has the visual effect, as *Salt Lake Tribune* columnist Dick Rosetta puts it, of "an ink spot on a shirt.") "Ute fans are violent," BYU student Andy Armstrong explained to the *Tribune* last year. "BYU fans, generally speaking, are pacifists."

Generally speaking. But there is at least one bellicose cry that will be heard often in Provo this fall: Beat Utah! Beat Utah!

TOM SMART/DESERET NE

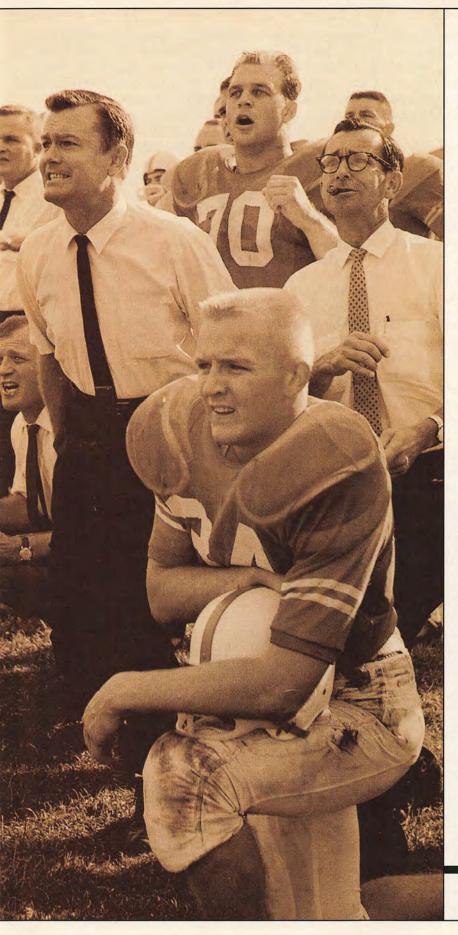


## Friend and Foe

IN THE GLORY DAYS OF THE SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE, FRANK BROYLES OF

ARKANSAS AND DARRELL ROYAL OF TEXAS WAGED A MOST CIVILIZED WAR

BY RON FIMRITE



What's he up to now?

Arkansas coach Frank Broyles stared anxiously across the icy turf of Razorback Stadium, his shirttail flapping like a gonfalon in the stiff December wind. "If Frank's shirttail don't come out," a friend once said, "we know he ain't come to the game yet."

His opposite number, Darrell Royal of Texas, had called a timeout with only minutes left in the biggest game ever between them, and that could mean trouble. Broyles searched his memory, hoping the past would send him a message. And so he stared ahead, oblivious to the crowd of nearly 45,000, hearing only the snap-snap of his own rebellious shirttail.

What's he up to now?

Theirs was a friendship forged in the cauldron of white-hot competition. For 19 years together they ruled the Southwest Conference, the storied league that came into being in 1914 but will cease play and vanish at the conclusion of this season. In the SWC's heyday, Frank Broyles and Darrell Royal waged an ongoing contest of will and football intellect that could have rendered them the bitterest of enemies. Instead, these yearly confrontations brought them closer together and rewarded them with a shared sense of the crazy turns a bouncing football will take. But in all those years of coaching against each other-Royal at Texas, Broyles at Arkansas-neither ever said a word to the other about their games. To this day, the subject is rarely raised—and never on the golf course, where they now compete as fiercely as they once did from the coaching sidelines. Only once, on a plane trip in 1977 shortly after they had both retired from coaching, did they ever try to discuss

In '60 Broyles (left) and his Hogs took a thriller from Royal and his Homs 24-23.

what they had been up to during all those years on the sidelines.

"Frank, it's over now, and I don't care anymore," Royal remarked to seatmate Broyles somewhere over Michigan. "But tell me, were you picking up our signals from the bench at Little Rock in 1971?"

"Well, yes, I was," Broyles confessed. Now it was his turn. "And, Darrell, tell me, were you picking up our signals in that 1962 game at Austin?"

"As a matter of fact, I was," Royal admitted. Then, after pausing to reflect on their mutual duplicity, they howled with laughter.

President Nixon was up there in the stands somewhere, and so was Billy Graham and Senator William Fulbright and Congressman George Bush. But Broyles was aware only of Royal, that grim-visaged sideline-pacer seen only vaguely through the faint glow of the fading afternoon.

The past was helping, as Broyles harkened back to a prior confrontation: I guessed five years ago, and I guessed right.

But what's he up to now?

Like most good friends, Royal and Broyles have much in common. They are very nearly the same age—Royal turned 71 in July, Broyles will be 71 in December. Both were star quarterbacks as college seniors—Royal at Oklahoma, Broyles at Georgia Tech. Both married their high school sweethearts more than 50 years ago. Both were in their early 30's when they became head coaches in the SWC—Royal at Texas in 1957, Broyles at Arkansas in 1958. Both left the game the same year, after playing their last game against—who else?—each other.

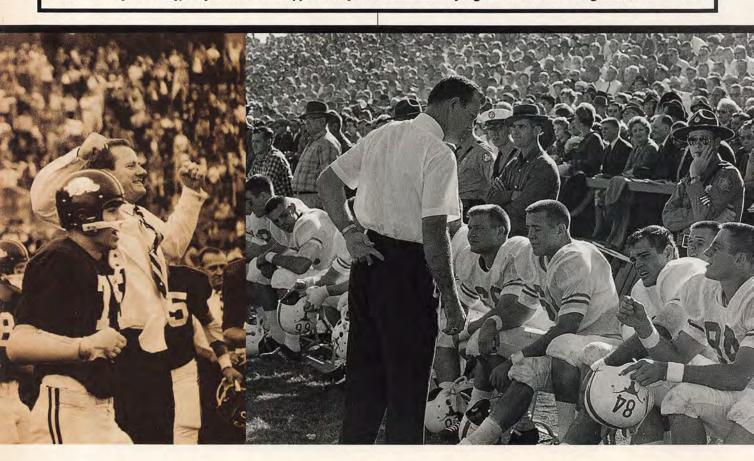
Both are renowned for their folksy wit: Broyles gave a national television audience a generous sample of his as a college football commentator on ABC for nine years. And Royal's epigrams, like "We're gonna dance with the one who brung us," have been quoted about as often as those of an earlier Southwestern humorist, Will Rogers.

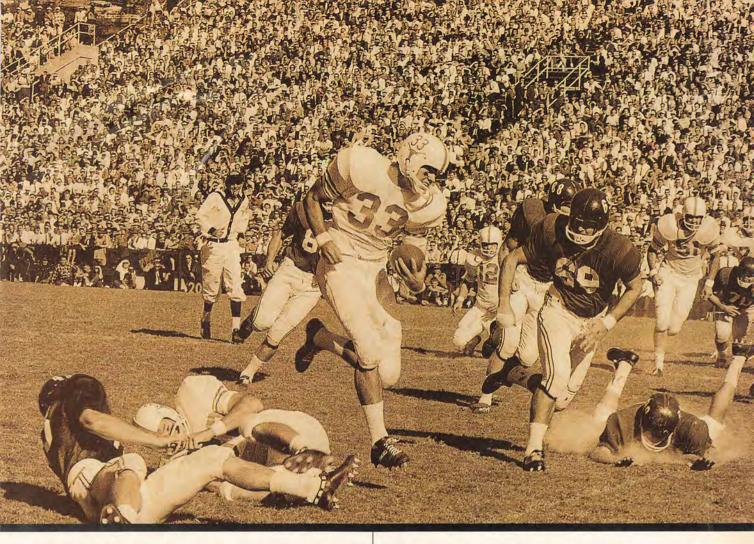
But there are differences, too. Royal was raised in the Oklahoma Dust Bowl of the 1930s, a *Grapes of Wrath* Okie who fled with his family to California and then returned to play high school football in his hometown, Hollis. He was dirt poor and had to work his way through school. Broyles grew up in a middle-class family in Decatur, Ga. He was, by his own admission, a pampered athlete who "never worked a day" in his life. Yet it is Broyles who, well past retirement age, continues to be employed, as athletic director at Arkansas, while Royal, who retired as Texas AD in 1979, pauses to sniff the flowers. "When is that boy gonna realize that time is running out?" Royal asks.

Broyles, white-haired now but still lithe and lanky, has a response for that: "I just can't wait to come to work in the morning. Every day is a challenge. We're still building here, and that's much more interesting than just maintaining. The way I look at it, if you enjoy what you're doing and you think you can make a difference, then you're a happy man. I'm a happy man."

Royal lives at the Barton Creek resort in Austin. He is chairman of the board of governors there, and he also serves as a consultant to the university on athletic affairs. Mostly, though, he plays golf—36 holes or more a day when Broyles is in town. (Royal is an eight handicapper, Broyles a seven.) Ruddy-faced and athletic, Royal, like his

Over the 19-year rivalry, Broyles's shirttail flapped freely as he watched Royal guide his hard-running attack to 14 wins.





friend, has aged well, a condition he credits to a newfound capacity for relaxation. "I've never felt the slightest temptation to return to coaching at any time since my retirement," he says. He is dressed in shorts on a humid Texas morning, waiting for his friend the singer Willie Nelson to show up for a golf game. "And I never liked being an AD. I'm a lousy fund-raiser because I just hate asking people for money, and that's what you have to do these days. Now I'm into wildflowers." He laughs. "You know, we have great wildflowers here in Texas. When I was coaching, I never even noticed the leaves changing colors. Now I'm into wildflowers."

Longhorn quarterback James Street was at Royal's side, awaiting instructions. "I think we'll just run 53-veer pass to the tight end," Royal told him. He could see the look of amazement on Street's young face. After all, wasn't this the coach who preached, "Three things can happen on a pass, and two of them are bad"? Besides, Street wasn't much of a passer, and on 53-veer he would be throwing long to a single receiver.

"Coach Royal, are you sure that's the play you want to run?"
"Hell yes, I'm sure."

But was he really? He sought out the figure of Broyles through the haze. Would he call the right defense?

What's he up to now?

When Royal arrived as a young messiah at Texas in '57 after brief head coaching experiences in the Canadian Football League and at Mississippi State and Washington, the SWC was one of the powerhouses in college football. "It wasn't all that unusual back then to have three or more of our schools in the Top 10," Royal recalls. "We had a tough conference." But the Longhorns, who had gone 1–9 the year before, were not among the toughest. "You don't take over a squad that has won only one of 10 games," Royal said upon his arrival, "and inherit a warm bed." Two years later he had a share of the conference title. And before he was finished he would establish SWC records that, with the impending demise of the conference, will never be broken.

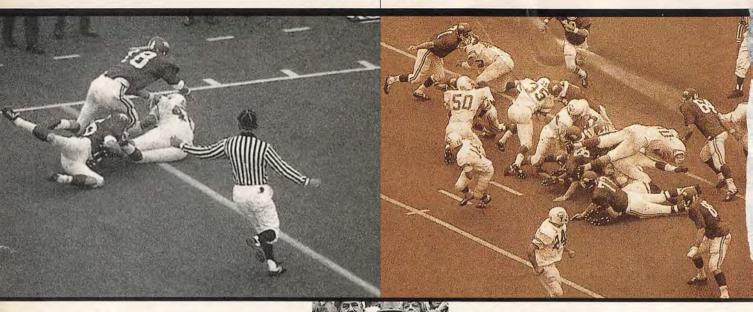
From 1959 to '76, Royal's teams would win or tie for the conference championship 11 times. They would be the SWC's Cotton Bowl representative 10 times, including a record six New Year's Days in succession, from 1969 through '74, years when the Longhorns ran roughshod over the opposition with a then revolutionary offense.

"What do you call that formation?" a newsman asked Royal early in the '68 season.

"I don't name formations," Royal replied, "but it looks something like a Y."

"It looks like an old wishbone," said *Houston Post* writer Mickey Herskowitz. And that was that.

Royal's 167 wins at Texas and his 109 conference wins are both records in the SWC, and his winning percentage of 77.4 for his 20 years there was the best in the nation during that time. He had three regular-season national champions—in 1963, '69 and '70.



Faced with such an intimidating opponent, any reasonable coach might have been content with second best. But not Broyles. In seven of his 19 seasons at Arkansas, his teams won or tied for the SWC title. His 1964 Hogs were voted national champions in one poll after they defeated Nebraska in the Cotton Bowl (Texas gave a helping hand by knocking off previously unbeaten and then No. 1–ranked Alabama in the

Orange Bowl). In Broyles's 19 years at Arkansas, his Razorback teams won 144 games, which ties him for second place on the SWC alltime list with Rice's Jess Neely. Amazingly enough, the coaching records of the two friends in the 1960s are virtually identical: 86-19-3 for Royal, 82-24-1 for Broyles. Of the 19 games played between the two coaches, Royal's Longhorns won 14, but four were decided by a single point and seven by less than a TD.

In 1969 the executives at ABC-TV persuaded the two schools to move their Big Shootout from its scheduled October kickoff to Dec. 6 in hopes the game would decide the national championship. "Those fellows," says Royal, "were smarter than a treeful of owls." At game time Texas was No. 1 in the country, Arkansas No. 2. President Nixon and a whole host of national celebrities showed up. On this dark and rainy day, Broyles and Royal were clearly in the national spotlight.

The game was no disappointment. Arkansas scored early and was leading 14–0 at the end of the third quarter. Royal was still smarting from the '64 game, in which his team had come back only to lose 14–13 when a two-point conversion pass fell incomplete. Broyles had guessed right on that play, calling for a blitz that hurried Texas quarterback Marvin Kristynik into misfiring. This time, after Street scrambled for a 42-yard TD on the first play of the fourth quarter, Royal had called for a two-point play and got it.

Now it was 14–8; a little more than six minutes remained and Texas had the ball, fourth-and-three on its own 43. Royal called his time-out. The moment had come, he concluded, to "let my gown fly." When Street returned to the huddle from his sideline conference with Royal, he mumbled to his teammates, "You're not going to believe this call: 53-veer pass to the tight end."

Staring almost gloomily ahead, Royal sought to justify his apparently rash decision: His team had not moved the ball well all day. Time was running out. Even if he made the first down on a running play, he was still 54 yards from the end zone and six points behind. No, he needed a big play. But what was the man across the field thinking?

Broyles was asking himself the same thing.

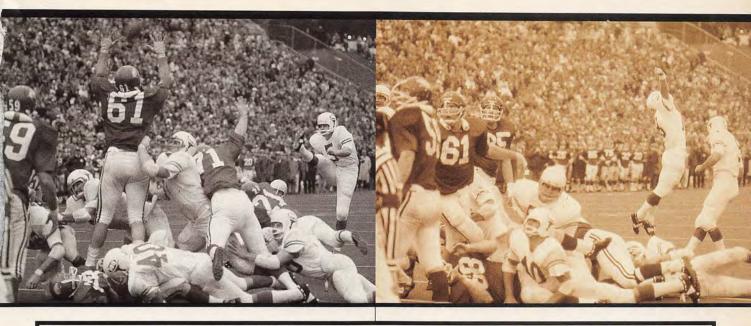
Texas tight end Randy Peschel got a step on the Razorback secondary, but safety Dennis Berner and cornerback Jerry Moore quickly made up ground and had him covered deep. Street threw the ball anyway. "There were six hands in the air," says Royal, "and four of them belonged to Arkansas." Somehow Street's pass found a hole in the tangle of fingers and fell into Peschel's arms for a 44-yard gain to the Arkansas 13. "That catch," says Royal, "saved me from being labeled a dummy for the rest of my stay here."

Two plays later, Texas halfback Jim Bertelsen scored on a two-yard run. The game-winning extra-point kick was made by the felicitously named Happy Feller, as the home crowd fell into a depressed silence. The Longhorns would go on to beat Notre Dame 21–17 in the Cotton Bowl and be named national champions. Broyles had been deprived of perhaps the same rewards by one big play.

Despite their battles, when summer came around the two coaches vacationed together on the golf course while their wives, Barbara (Broyles) and Edith (Royal), "spent all our money shopping," Broyles says. In those days the two friends would often play as many as 72 holes in a single day. And still there would be no mention of football.

Then, in October 1976, Broyles called Royal. "I'll tell you something if you'll keep it under your hat: I'm quitting. This is my last year of coaching." Royal was amazed, not so much because his old friend was hanging it up but because he had come to the same decision. "I'm quitting too," Royal said. "We'll go out together."

Both were, in fact, exhausted by the pressures of their profession and more than a little disillusioned by the direction college football seemed to be taking. Gone were other legendary coaches whose names were synonymous with their universities, as the names Royal and Broyles had become. "These days," Broyles now says, "coaches



Peschel's catch, Bertelsen's run and Feller's kick in '69 wowed Nixon but didn't steer a friendship off course.

talk about their 'programs,' not their universities. It's a different world. I decided I'd quit by the time I was 45. I lasted till I was 51."

"For me, it got so winning was no longer a joy, just a relief," says Royal, "and losing was intolerable." Royal also endured personal tragedies. Two of his three children died in vehicular accidents: 27-year-old Marian in 1972 and 29-year-old David in '82. "And you're never really the same after something like that," says Broyles.

What the two coaches half suspected at the time was that the Southwest Conference itself was in decline. In years past it had been



unthinkable for a Texas high school football star to play anywhere but in the SWC. Now those top talents were seduced by other conferences. And by the time the SWC schools got around to recruiting black players, in 1966, many of them were already used to committing elsewhere. The quality of play suffered, and so did attendance.

"It finally reached the point," says Royal, "when if, say, Rice and TCU played each other, only Boy Scouts and next of kin showed up." Only Arkansas, Texas and Texas A & M remained significant drawing cards. And though Arkansas was a charter member of the conference, it had long been the odd man out, the only non-Texas SWC school. As early as 1978, Broyles discussed the possibility of moving Arkansas's teams to the Big Eight—a move, ironically enough, that Texas, Texas A & M, Baylor and Texas Tech will make next year, thereby transforming the Big Eight into the Big 12 and sealing the doom of the 81-year-old SWC. And in 1990, Arkansas did accept an invitation to join the much more lucrative Southeastern Conference, consistently the top draw in all of college football. The switch has meant an additional \$2 million in television and bowl-game revenue for the school and has given it natural rivalries with neighboring Tennessee, Ole Miss and LSU.

Arkansas's defection was the beginning of the end of a once flourishing conference in which such football legends as Sammy Baugh, Davey O'Brien, Bobby Layne and Doak Walker had performed. And where Darrell Royal and Frank Broyles had coached. Now the demolition is almost complete.

Royal and Broyles coached their last game together on Dec. 4, 1976, in Austin. Texas won it 29–12. The coaches finished with identical 5-5-1 records in their final season. Together they brought to a close the most remarkable run of dual successes in the history of their conference.

At the end of that 19th and last contest between them, Royal and Broyles embraced at midfield. As Royal headed for the Texas locker room, an eavesdropping reporter asked him, "Hey, didn't I hear you two say you loved each other?" Royal slowed down. "Well, you might have," he replied. Then, moving on, he whispered over his shoulder, "Anyway, we do."

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### Heisman Maxwell

OUTSTANDING PLAYER

### STEPHEN DAVIS

RUNNING BACK AUBURN, SENIOR

1994

221 carries, 1,263 vds, 5.7 avg, 13 TDs CAREER

308 carries, 1,743 vds, 5.7 avg, 16 TDs

### LAWRENCE PHILLIPS

RUNNING BACK NEBRASKA, JUNIOR

1994

286 carries, 1,722 yds, 6.0 avg, 16 TDs CAREER

378 carries, 2,230 yds, 5.9 avg, 21 TDs

### RON POWLUS

QUARTERBACK

NOTRE DAME, JUNIOR

1994

119 comp, 222 att, 1,729 yds, 19 TDs, 9 int

### TOMMIE FRAZIER

19 comp, 44 att, 273 vds, 4 TDs, 2 int

### DANNY WUERFFEL

132 comp, 212 att, 1,724 yds, 18 TDs, 9 int

### LEELAND McELROY

202 carries, 1,320 yds, 6.5 avg, 16 TDs

### WARRICK DUNN

FLORIDA STATE, JUNIOR

220 carries, 1,537 vds, 7.0 avg, 12 TDs

### TIM BIAKABUTUKA

CAREER 155 carries, 900 yds, 5.8 avg, 12 TDs

### SIMEON RICE

LINEBACKER

ILLINOIS, SENIOR

1994

58 tackles, 0 int, 4 fumbles caused, 1 fumble recovered, 16 sacks

### CAREER

141 tackles, 0 int, 9 fumbles caused, 5 fumbles recovered, 33 sacks

### PEYTON MANNING

QUARTERBACK

TENNESSEE, SOPHOMORE

89 comp, 144 att, 1,141 yds, 11 TDs, 6 int

### Davey O'Brien

BEST QUARTERBACK

### RON POWLUS

NOTRE DAME, JUNIOR

### TOMMIE FRAZIER

NEBRASKA, SENIOR

### DANNY WUERFFEL

FLORIDA, SENIOR

PEYTON MANNING

### TENNESSEE, SOPHOMORE

DANNY KANELL

FLORIDA STATE, SENIOR

227 comp, 380 att, 2,781 yds, 17 TDs, 13 int CAREER

269 comp, 449 att, 3,415 vds, 25 TDs, 13 int

### OTHERS

### TONY BANKS

### MICHIGAN STATE, SENIOR

145 comp, 238 att, 2,040 vds, 11 TDs, 6 int (first season after transferring to MSU from Mesa [Ariz.] Junior College)

### DARRELL BEVELL WISCONSIN, SENIOR

1994

139 comp, 231 att, 1,544 yds, 17 TDs, 10 int CAREER

451 comp, 752 att, 5,413 yds, 44 TDs, 28 int

### MAX KNAKE

TCU. SENIOR

1994

184 comp, 316 att, 2,624 yds, 24 TDs, 7 int

423 comp, 746 att, 5,133 vds, 39 TDs, 24 int

### PATRICK NIX

AUBURN, SENIOR

1994

169 comp, 299 att, 2,206 yds, 13 TDs, 7 int CAREER

185 comp, 325 att, 2,383 yds, 16 TDs, 7 int

### STEVE TANEYHILL SOUTH CAROLINA, SENIOR

1994

231 comp, 367 att, 2,259 yds, 19 TDs, 8 int CAREER

466 comp, 820 att, 5,461 yds, 32 TDs, 28 int

### Outland Lombardi

BEST LINEMAN

### TEDY BRUSCHI

DEFENSIVE END ARIZONA, SENIOR

39 tackles, 1 fumble caused, 4 fumbles recovered, 2 passes deflected, 10 sacks

### CAREER

123 tackles, 5 fumbles caused, 5 fumbles recovered, 8 passes deflected, 33½ sacks

### BRANDON MITCHELL DEFENSIVE END

TEXAS A&M. JUNIOR

1994

62 tackles, 2 fumbles caused. 3 fumbles recovered, 6 passes deflected, 9 sacks

### CAREER

69 tackles, 2 fumbles caused, 3 fumbles recovered, 6 passes deflected,

### JEFF HARTINGS

OFFENSIVE GUARD

PENN STATE, SENIOR

1994

Named first-team All-America by AP and Walter Camp Foundation; named second-team All-America by UPI; cornerstone of offensive line that allowed just 3 sacks during the season

### GABE NORTHERN

DEFENSIVE END LSU SENIOR

1994 63 tackles,1 fumble caused, 0 fumbles recovered, 4 passes deflected,

### 11 sacks CAREER

125 tackles, 2 fumbles caused, 0 fumbles recovered, 9 passes deflected, 12 sacks

### PETE KENDALL

OFFENSIVE TACKLE

**BOSTON COLLEGE, SENIOR** 

Named All-Big East, All-ECAC: allowed 0 sacks

OTHERS

### TIM COLSTON DEFENSIVE TACKLE

KANSAS STATE, SENIOR

### SEAN MORAN DEFENSIVE END COLORADO STATE, SENIOR

### IASON ODOM

OFFENSIVE TACKLE FLORIDA, SENIOR

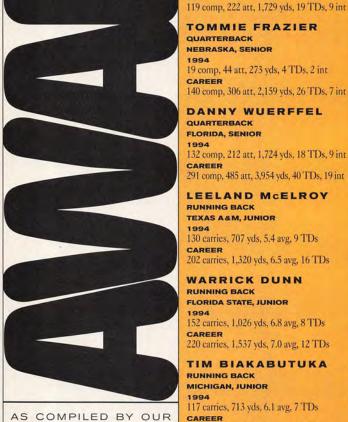
### JONATHAN OGDEN

OFFENSIVE TACKLE UCLA, SENIOR

### CLAY SHIVER

FLORIDA STATE, SENIOR





COLLEGE FOOTBALL

EXPERTS, THESE ARE

THE PRESEASON

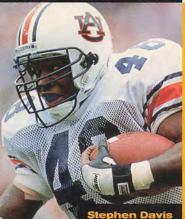
FAVORITES FOR THE

MOST PRESTIGIOUS

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

### Doak Walker

BEST RUNNING BACK



STEPHEN DAVIS AUBURN, SENIOR

LAWRENCE PHILLIPS NEBRASKA, JUNIOR

LEELAND MCELROY TEXAS A&M, JUNIOR

WARRICK DUNN FLORIDA STATE, JUNIOR

TIM BIAKABUTUKA MICHIGAN, JUNIOR

OTHERS

CHRIS DARKINS MINNESOTA, SENIOR 1994

277 carries, 1,443 vds, 5.2 avg, 11 TDs CAREER 479 carries, 2,410 vds, 5.0 avg, 15 TDs

ANDRE DAVIS

TCU. SENIOR 1994

260 carries, 1,494 yds, 5.7 avg, 7 TDs 450 carries, 2,362 vds, 5.3 avg, 15 TDs

RANDY KINDER NOTRE DAME, JUNIOR 1994

119 carries, 702 yds, 5.9 avg, 4 TDs CAREER 208 carries, 1,239 vds, 5.9 avg, 6 TDs

KARIM ABDUL-JABBAR (FORMERLY SHARMON SHAH)

UCLA, JUNIOR 1994

210 carries, 1,227 yds, 5.8 avg, 4 TDs CAREER 312 carries, 1,611 yds, 5.2 avg, 5 TDs

SHAWN WALTERS USC. JUNIOR 1994

193 carries, 976 yds, 5.1 avg, 11 TDs CAREER 349 carries, 1,687 vds, 4.8 avg, 18 TDs

\*only juniors and seniors eligible

### **Butkus**

BEST LINEBACKER

SIMEON RICE ILLINOIS, SENIOR

RAY LEWIS MIAMI, JUNIOR

152 tackles, 2 int, 1 fumble caused, 0 fumbles recovered, 2 sacks

CAREER 228 tackles, 2 int, 2 fumbles caused, 0 fumbles recovered, 4 sacks

DWAVNE CURRY

MISSISSIPPI STATE, JUNIOR

123 tackles, 3 int, 0 fumbles caused, 1 fumble recovered, 1 sack CAREER

218 tackles, 3 int, 1 fumble caused, 1 fumble recovered, 1 sack

KEVIN HARDY

ILLINOIS, SENIOR

80 tackles, 2 int, 1 fumble caused. 0 fumbles recovered, 1 sack CAREER

221 tackles, 2 int, 2 fumbles caused, 2 fumbles recovered, 7 sacks

ANTHONY HARRIS

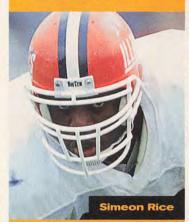
AUBURN, SENIOR

1994

116 tackles, 0 int, 0 fumbles caused, 1 fumble recovered, 1 sack

CAREER

306 tackles, 2 int, 2 fumbles caused. 2 fumbles recovered, 9 sacks



OTHERS

DONNIE EDWARDS UCLA SENIOR

JARRETT IRONS MICHIGAN, SENIOR

TERRY KILLENS PENN STATE, SENIOR

TODD REBOL FLORIDA STATE, SENIOR

ZACH THOMAS TEXAS TECH, SENIOR

### **Biletnikoff**

**BOBBY ENGRAM** PENN STATE, SENIOR

1994

52 catches, 1,029 vds, 7 TDs CAREER

104 catches, 1,942 vds, 20 TDs



### **KEYSHAWN JOHNSON** USC, SENIOR

58 catches, 1,140 vds, 9 TDs (first season after transferring to USC from West L.A. [junior] College)

DERRICK MAYES NOTRE DAME, SENIOR

1994

47 catches, 847 yds, 11 TDs CAREER 81 catches, 1,631 yds, 16 TDs

AMANI TOOMER

MICHIGAN SENIOR 1994

49 catches, 1,033 yds, 5 TDs

CAREER 94 catches, 1,833 vds, 10 TDs

**KEVIN JORDAN** UCLA, SENIOR

1994

73 catches, 1,228 yds, 7 TDs CAREER

136 catches, 1,990 yds, 9 TDs

OTHERS

REIDEL ANTHONY FLORIDA SOPHOMORE

**EDDIE KENNISON** LOUISIANA STATE, JUNIOR

ERIC MOULDS MISSISSIPPI STATE SENIOR

FREDDIE SCOTT PENN STATE, SENIOR

ALEX VAN DYKE **NEVADA, SENIOR** 

### **Thorpe**

BEST RECEIVER BEST DEFENSIVE BACK

DEMETRICE MARTIN

CORNERBACK

MICHIGAN STATE, SENIOR

59 tackles, 7 int, 0 sacks, 6 passes deflected

CAREER

76 tackles, 7 int, 0 sacks, 6 passes deflected

AARON BEASLEY CORNERBACK

WEST VIRGINIA, SENIOR

57 tackles, 10 int, 2 sacks,

15 passes deflected CAREER

103 tackles, 14 int, 2 sacks, 20 passes deflected

GREG MYERS

CORNERBACK COLORADO STATE, SENIOR

40 tackles, 3 int, 0 sacks, 6 passes deflected

CAREER

212 tackles, 11 int, 0 sacks, 22 passes deflected

LAWYER MILLOY SAFETY

WASHINGTON, JUNIOR

106 tackles, 1 int, 0 sacks, 2 passes deflected

CAREER

134 tackles, 3 int, 1 sack, 5 passes deflected

WALT HARRIS

CORNERBACK MISSISSIPPI STATE, SENIOR

54 tackles, 6 int, 0 sacks, 12 passes deflected

CAREER

137 tackles, 12 int, 0 sacks, 27 passes deflected

OTHERS

RONDE BARBER CORNERBACK

VIRGINIA. SOPHOMORE

COREY JOHNSON FREE SAFETY

**CARLOS JONES** CORNERBACK

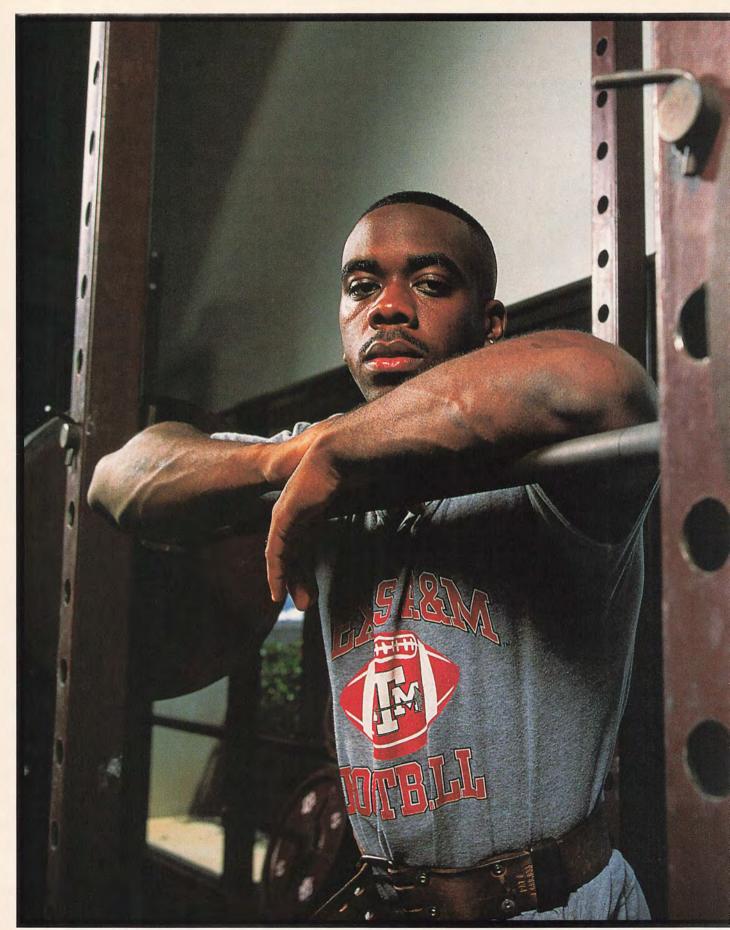
GEORGIA, JUNIOR

MIAMI, JUNIOR RAY MICKENS

CORNERBACK TEXAS A&M. SENIOR

BRIAN MILLER CORNERBACK PENN STATE, SENIOR

(LEFT TO RIGHT) RICHARD MACKSON; ROBERT ROGERS; JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT USA; RICK STEWAR





# Vait Sover

LEELAND MCELROY, THE EXPLOSIVE DO-IT-ALL BACK AT TEXAS A&M, IS PUMPED UP ABOUT FINALLY GETTING HIS CHANCE

### BY HANK HERSCH

His daddy is of the old school, as in: There's no such thing as an acceptable shortcut, curfew is 11 o'clock sharp, and look your mama in the eye when you ask to take her car out for a spin. Lee McElroy Sr. may be 78 now, long past his days of lugging the mail throughout Beaumont, Texas, but his voice still carries an authority redolent of hickory switches and forbidding woodsheds. You want old school? From the creased easy chair that he wears like a throne, Lee Sr. will tell of the time at Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute he watched Dr. Carver—that would be the legendary botanist, inventor and professor George Washington Carver—interrupt his constitutional to unload groceries from a woman's car.

"He came walking down the street with his suit all wrinkled and gravy stains on his tie," McElroy says. "That man could do more with peanuts than a monkey, but when she asked him for help, he stopped and took those groceries in. Next day she found out who he was and called to apologize. 'Oh, Dr. Carver, I'm so sorry.' But he said it didn't matter, he would have helped her anyway. That's what people don't understand. If you're somebody special, you don't have to act big and tell the whole world. They're going to find out."

At 21, Texas A & M junior tailback Leeland McElroy is the youngest (by seven years) of Lee and Maud's 12 children, but his values come

straight from the old school—even if the diamond stud in his left ear might seem like a violation of its dress code. He loves the traditions at A & M, where yell practice and male cheerleaders decked out in Man from Glad outfits endure like hiccups from some time machine. After sitting for 11 games, McElroy was willing to sacrifice a season of eligibility in his redshirt year and suit up for a suspended Aggie player in the 1993 Cotton Bowl, although he never played. He studies hard, is solicitous of strangers, never has to be reminded about his duties (especially, as we shall see, weight training) and keeps an ironing board poised for action in his spartan College Station apartment.

Above all, McElroy is the 5'11", 202-pound embodiment of his daddy's George Washington Carver parable on the fatuity of flaunting one's gifts: He has waited without complaint for three years to become A & M's featured tailback, even though he has long been able to do more things with a football than Doc Carver could with a goober.

Indeed, in an era of specialists, the blazing McElroy will burst on

the scene in 1995 as a genuine throwback: the all-around threat. Or, as Aggie coach R.C. Slocum puts it, the young man has reached a coveted rank in old-school football (and one befitting his parentage): McElroy, he says, is A & M's "mail carrier." In addition to rushing between the tackles, sweeping around end and catching passes out of the backfield, he will handle kickoff returns and may field punts as well. As a redshirt freshman and a sophomore, McElroy averaged an NCAA-record 42.4 yards per kick return and scored four touchdowns, two shy of the alltime career mark. "He's the kind of guy who when he gets the ball, no matter where, you hold your breath because he can always go all the way," Slocum says. "We know if we're going to be good, Leeland is going to have to get a lot of touches."

In 1993 and '94, however, touches were precisely the rub for McElroy. He sat first behind tailbacks Rodney Thomas and Greg Hill and then split time as a sophomore with Thomas. No matter that McElroy runs the 40 in 4.27, has scored 24 TDs as a two-year backup, averages 6.5 yards per carry and gains 9.8 yards per magical touch. No matter, because among the Aggies the torch at tailback is not passed casually. But with Hill and Thomas operating in the NFL these days, McElroy has Kyle Field all to himself at last.

Now, as he talks about the upcoming season, McElroy's foot beats a rapid-fire tattoo against the leg of his chair. "It's exciting—kind of like going to college all over again," he says. "It's my first chance to really play, not just in spurts. A lot of people thought I'd get lost in the shuffle here, but it didn't happen."

Because probation kept the Aggies off the tube in '94 and the upperclassmen kept him out of the starting lineup, McElroy is essentially a mirage in the public eye. Of course, opposing coaches are well aware of what he can do with the slightest slice of daylight. As a freshman, he roared 26 and 58 yards for a pair of TDs on screen passes against LSU; then at Rice he brought back two kicks for scores before the Aggies' offense even took a snap. Last season Texas coach John Mackovic vowed to kick off to McElroy "over my dead body," having witnessed McElroy's end zone–to–end zone dash during an 18–9 A & M victory in '93. Still, when the Longhorns tried a sideline pooch, McElroy pounced, scooting 83 yards to the Texas one. After the 34–10 A & M blowout, one scribe alluded to Mackovic's promise by writing, "Autopsy pending."

The Aggies, too, are well aware of McElroy's largely untapped talents. "I'm not taking anything away from the other great running backs we've had," says senior quarterback Corey Pullig, a four-year starter, "but Leeland has that burst. That burst is hard to believe, man." Adds McElroy's roommate, junior right guard Calvin Collins, "Whenever he did play, it was awesome. But there was nothing I could say to him to encourage him, because unless someone got hurt, he wasn't going

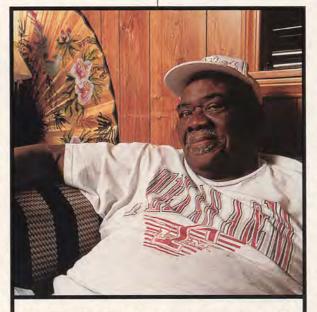
to play a lot."

As Slocum ticks off McElroy's gifts—power, speed, vision, elusiveness, cutback ability—he illustrates the way he runs, gliding his hand, palm down, through the air. He is already touting McElroy for the Heisman Trophy. If you're somebody special, they're going to find out. "Leeland's the greatest combination of everything we've had," Slocum says. "I see him as a guy who could explode on the scene from nowhere, the way Barry Sanders did at Oklahoma State [in 1988]."

Certainly, McElroy is fit to shoulder the baggage of a Heisman hypee as well as the mail of a national title contender. In '93 he exploded on the scene of the Netum A. Steed Physiology Research and Conditioning Laboratory, a.k.a. the A & M weight room, winning the team's spring conditioning award. Last season he

copped the trophy for the third straight time and so dominated the field that strength and conditioning coach Mike Clark, a 14-year devotee of gargantuan heaves and grunts, assigns him the flattering designation "genetic freak."

Clark's spring test includes six events that measure movement and lifting, with points awarded according to a player's finish in each task. Thus the lower the total, the better, the best possible score being a 6. When Clark worked at USC, All-America linebacker Junior Seau netted a 28. In March, McElroy scored a 14. Clark sounds like a preacher who has just risen from a bath in holy water as he runs down McElroy's unprecedented performance. "You can see a guy like Leeland jumping 40 inches," he says. "It's exceptional, but you can see it—even though I've had only three guys who ever did it, and two were alternates on the Olympic team. And 4.27 for the 40 is awesome, but he's the fastest guy on the team. And you can understand his 20-yard shuttle time—3.78 seconds—and him finishing second there.



Lee Sr.'s long line of football-playing sons ends with Leeland, the smallest but most gifted.



"But you cannot fathom him squatting 510 pounds, and you cannot fathom him power-cleaning 330—unless he was an Olympic weightlifter—and you cannot fathom that the same guy who does all this can bench 390, blow it away and just miss doing 400 pounds. All that, and his percentage of body fat is 3.9. To say he's something else is an understatement."

Maud McElroy knew her baby boy would be something else from his first days on earth. Four nights after Leeland was born, Maud, then 38, took her mother, who had become ill, to the hospital. As Maud recalls, "My mother told me, 'I'm not going to be there to help you with him, but he's going to be very special. He's going to take care of you.' She said that, and less than a week later she died."

Despite the 57-year gap between Lee Sr. and Leeland, the two have always been close. "With my children it's never been, 'Daddy, can I?'" Lee Sr. says. "It's always been, 'Daddy, let's.'" That togetherness notwithstanding, Leeland had his first encounter with his father's belt when he was a toddler and had crossed the street without permission. It was also his last. "That's all it took," Leeland says. "My father's a very firm guy; at the same time, he's a very caring guy. He has always rewarded me for what I did on the field or in the classroom. But he was raised back in the times when things were real hard, and he believed whenever he said something to me, his word was law. Which it was."

Even before Leeland's whupping, three of his brothers had established the McElroy name in football. Lee Jr. was a 6'3", 230-pound line-backer for UCLA from 1967 to '69; Carl was a 6'6", 280-pound offensive lineman at Oklahoma in '67 and '68; and 6'6", 290-pound Reggie starred at West Texas State and is now an offensive lineman for the Denver Broncos in his 12th NFL season. As Leeland notes, "I got shorted on size."

With his brothers grown and around the house only sporadically, Leeland didn't gravitate to football right away; he preferred power-lifting and running track instead. He finally took up the game as a ninth-grader at Beaumont Central High. Forty-seven-year-old Lee Jr., who earned a doctorate in business and education and is now the athletic director at Cal State—Sacramento, kept tabs on Leeland's development, visiting as often as he could. "The relationship we have is almost like father-son," he says. "In fact, a lot of people come up to me and say, 'You must be so proud of him.' They think I am his father."

Not surprisingly, given Lee Jr.'s influence, UCLA was among the final colleges considered by Leeland, who rolled up 1,532 yards and 21 TDs as a senior, while sprinting the 100 in 10.6. But he preferred the less distracting environment of College Station to Westwood. More important, A & M is a mere 135 miles northwest of Beaumont, and he wanted to stay close to home. In the past seven years Lee Sr. has been stricken with diabetes and blood clots, suffered a mild stroke and received extensive treatments for colon and prostate cancer. "One summer we thought we might lose him," Leeland says. "But he's a very strong man."

While Texas A & M's handy location has benefited the McElroys, who attend almost every game en masse, Leeland's spot on the

Aggies' depth chart disappointed him initially, and he considered transferring. It was touch—or go. "My first year it was hard, real hard," he says. "I would get down sometimes and wonder if I would ever play again. After that first year I wanted to do anything to get the ball back in my hands." Fortunately for his psyche, he shared a room with Collins, who had attended West Brook High, Beaumont Central's annual opponent in the Beaumont Bowl. A tape of that game from their senior year would frequently make its way into the VCR, reminding the two redshirt freshmen of what it was like to suit up.

Even now, the high school rivalry kindles their own. "We won 24-21," Collins says.

"Yeah, but I ended up having a pretty good day," counters McElroy.

"Not the first three quarters."

"Then I had an 80-yard run, a 50-yard screen. I wound up with close to 200 all-purpose yards."

"But I was only in for five plays on defense. Had two tackles and a sack."

"I didn't notice you. I don't have eyes in the back of my head."

In addition to Beaumont Bowl memories, McElroy had his family to lean on in lean times. Lee Jr. speaks to Leeland at least once a week and has even offered his services as an over-the-phone tutor. He stops by College Station when he can, too, and then has an appointed round to swiftly complete: visits to members of the coach-

ing and administrative staffs to make sure baby brother's books and life are in apple-pie order. Not that Leeland, whose major is business management, needs much help with his priorities. Last year *Playboy* honored him as its All-America kick returner and flew him to Phoenix. When Lee Jr. called at 10:15 p.m. to say he wouldn't be able to join his brother for the festivities, Leeland was already in bed for the night.

Mostly the McElroy brothers like to kick back and talk. "A while ago people were telling him he might win the Heisman Trophy and be the greatest tailback ever at the school, and here he was third string, so he wanted to know if that could be true," Lee Jr. says. "I said, 'In college football, yes, it could be.'"

Whether McElroy will be able to bookend the John David Crow 1957 Heisman that sits on a pedestal in the Koldus Building lobby at A & M will depend largely on how well he holds up after 30 or 40 touches a game. The old school is definitely one of hard knocks. Slocum fed him the ball early and often during spring practice and came away pleased with McElroy's stamina. Exposing his best rusher to the extra blows from kick returns is a risk, but the reward is too great to pass up. With McElroy set to receive, the Aggies' average starting field position last season was the 37-yard line. "Leeland doesn't take too many shots on kickoffs," Slocum says. "My experience is that people have to try to drag him down from behind."

For Lee Sr. in his easy chair, Leeland's progress is all part of the family plan. "I'm a fanatic about bettering your position in life," Lee Sr. says. "I've told all my kids to try to go farther than the one ahead of you." And on any given touch, as the world is soon to find out, Leeland McElroy is a threat to go all the way.



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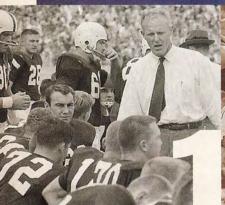
# Double Trouble

IF YOU THINK WINNING THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
IS TOUGH, TRY WINNING IT AGAIN THE FOLLOWING
SEASON. THAT'S WHAT NEBRASKA IS PLOTTING NOW

### BY HANK HERSCH

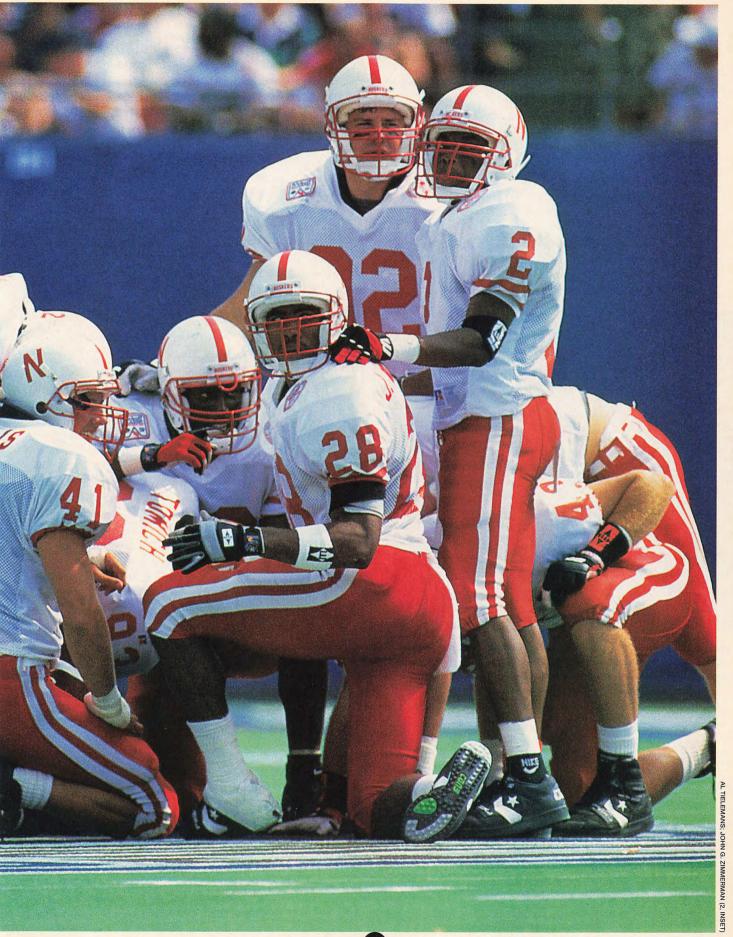
Undefeatability lies with ourselves. Defeatability lies with the enemy.
—Sun Tzu
The Art of War

It's not hard to imagine Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz back in the summer of 1989 perched on a lawn chair at his Granger, Ind., home, throwing a handful of charcoal or Miami media guides on the barbecue and pondering the sentiment above. A few months earlier, his Fighting Irish had claimed the 1988 No. 1 ranking in the AP and UPI polls, and 15 of his starters would be back in the fall. For advice on how to repeat as national champions, Holtz had spent the off-season plumbing the minds of coaches like Bill Walsh and Bobby Knight as well as





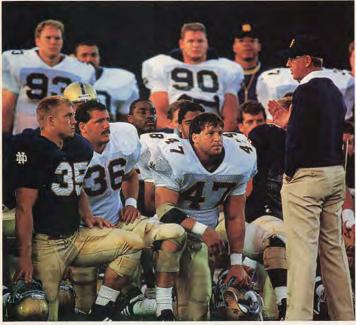
The Huskers have to look back to Wilkinson (left) and his '55 and '56 Sooners to find the last undisputed repeat champions.



the words of a Chinese philosopher who died 25 centuries ago.

And so, loaded with talent and enough military strategy to overthrow a Han dynasty warlord, Holtz marshaled Notre Dame's quest that autumn for the elusive double single, a feat so rare that it seemed as if it hadn't been achieved since the 5th century B.C. In fact, Bud Wilkinson's Oklahoma teams had repeated as consensus national champs in 1955 and '56; since then, four teams had won one crown and shared part of a second in consecutive seasons, but none had made a clean-sweep repeat. Perhaps sensing how daunting the task ahead would be, Holtz began to cushion the Fighting Irish fans for a fall. "We may look almost the same in terms of personnel, but we're not the same people," he said. "It's just like a golfer who's great one year and then loses his PGA card the next."

The Irish would go on to battle with honor in '89, finishing 12–1 after a 21–6 Orange Bowl victory over top-ranked Colorado. But without undefeatedness, they were ultimately defeatable: Both polls ranked them behind Miami. Reflecting later on the difficulty of what his team



slaked. At the same time, it is all the more necessary to be pumped up, since every team in the nation is hell-bent on deposing the champs. "When you win your first, you drive so hard," says Kevin Patrick, a defensive end for the Miami team that shared the 1991 championship with Washington. "You know no other feeling than wanting that title; but when you win it, something happens, something changes. No matter how hard you're working or how much you deny it, there's a sense of complacency, even if it's very small."

Combating that complacency becomes the coach's focus. Only a few days after Alabama had won the Sugar Bowl and the AP's share of the 1978 crown (UPI went with USC), Bear Bryant addressed his Crimson Tide. "What year did you win the championship?" Bryant asked.

"1978," they answered.

"What year is it now?"

NOTRE DAME

"1979."

"That's right," said Bryant. "It's a new year, it's a new team, and what you start doing now will determine what you do this fall." With the line

drawn, Alabama went on to finish atop both polls in '79, becoming the last to stake even a partial claim to back-toback titles.

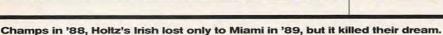
Quantity . The talent pool on a championship team can instantly run from deep to shallow after a season. The number of scholarships per team, having dwindled since Wilkinson's days of unlimited grants, is down to 85, which leaves little room for stockpiling. Success is likely to cause agents to flock to a school, siphoning off the best players to the pros before their eligibility expires. The recruiting boon that a championship can provide doesn't immediately pay off the following season, because freshmen seldom crack the starting lineup. And, most important, the upperclassmen have moved on, leaving a leadership void.

"You lose a core group that has been together for four or five years," says Mark Sherburne, a quarterback on Penn State's title team in 1987. "They develop an attitude about winning. They set goals for

themselves. That makes them hard to replace." Moreover, football more than any other sport demands a breadth of talent. "In basketball, you can have one or two great players and have a great program," Auburn coach Terry Bowden says. "But in football, you've got to get 15 to 20."

**Numbers** • The Hail Mary completion, the favorable call from a misguided ref, the lucky bounce of a fumbled ball. A team that gets all the breaks in one championship run is likely to find the odds against it when bidding for a second. "It comes down to so fine a line," says Colorado coach Rick Neuheisel. "It's almost a magical thing when you try to put all that chemistry back together, and you can't count on luck being mixed in. That just happens."

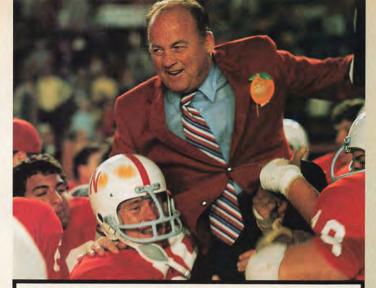
Weighing • Even if a team blitzes through a season unbeaten, there is no guarantee that the pollsters will deem it the champion. "You don't go through a tournament, so you have to rely on sportswriters and



had tried to accomplish, Holtz said, "Having never had to come back after winning a championship, it was probably impossible to adequately prepare our team for what it would experience."

As Nebraska, which won the national championship in 1994, tries to repeat, coach Tom Osborne might be wise to find a chair of his own and contemplate the mystery: What makes bookending titles in college football so rare? In the last decade there have been repeaters in the four major pro sports as well as in 28 NCAA Division I sports. Could the answer lie in Holtz's summer reading? Consider the five factors that Sun Tzu believed control superiority in the theater of war.

Assessment • In a game that demands players be constantly "up," the largest impediment to a successful repeat performance is attitudinal. It is difficult for college kids to resummon that vital, all-consuming sense of purpose after the thirst for a first title has been



Devaney (top), Switzer and Bryant (bottom) came close.

other coaches and what biases there may be that year. You just never know," says Jimbo Elrod, a defensive end at Oklahoma from 1973 to '75, when the Sooners just missed the double.

In '74 the football coaches chose for the first time not to include teams on probation in their UPI poll, thus keeping unbeaten-but-sanctioned Oklahoma

from becoming a consensus No. 1. The next season, their probation over, the Sooners finished atop both polls.

Victory • After the final poll for 1989, Holtz continued to insist that his team was the rightful heir to the throne. "I just believe we have the best record against the toughest schedule," he said. "Case rests." Unfortunately, Notre Dame's

one loss was to Miami, which ended its season 11-1 and No. 1.

The new bowl alliance rules make it much more likely that the two top-ranked teams will meet in the postseason. That should help place a potential repeater that makes it through the regular season unscathed in position to defend its title. (The scheme may fall apart, of course, if the titlist is from the Big Ten or the Pac-10 and is therefore obligated to play in the Rose Bowl.) When or if a playoff system comes to pass, there will be no dispute about the champion, but Bowden doubts that a tournament will abet any bookend bids. "It would probably give you less of a chance," he says, "because you'd have to win all these late games against so many top teams."

With all of the above considered, Nebraska would seem to have a solid chance of repeating. The Huskers' top two offensive threats return, along with two other senior starters; their schedule is potent but not too dangerous; the alliance setup should help eliminate any last-minute leap-frogging; and Osborne has coped with the perils of repeating, as a Nebraska assistant in 1970 and '71.

But the notion of going for two is on very few players' minds in Lincoln. "No one is talking about the past Nebraska teams that won back-to-back," says Jon Hesse, a second-string end. "It's all about this season. It's not like the past will help us win a championship this year." Indeed, if history is any indication, it will probably hurt.

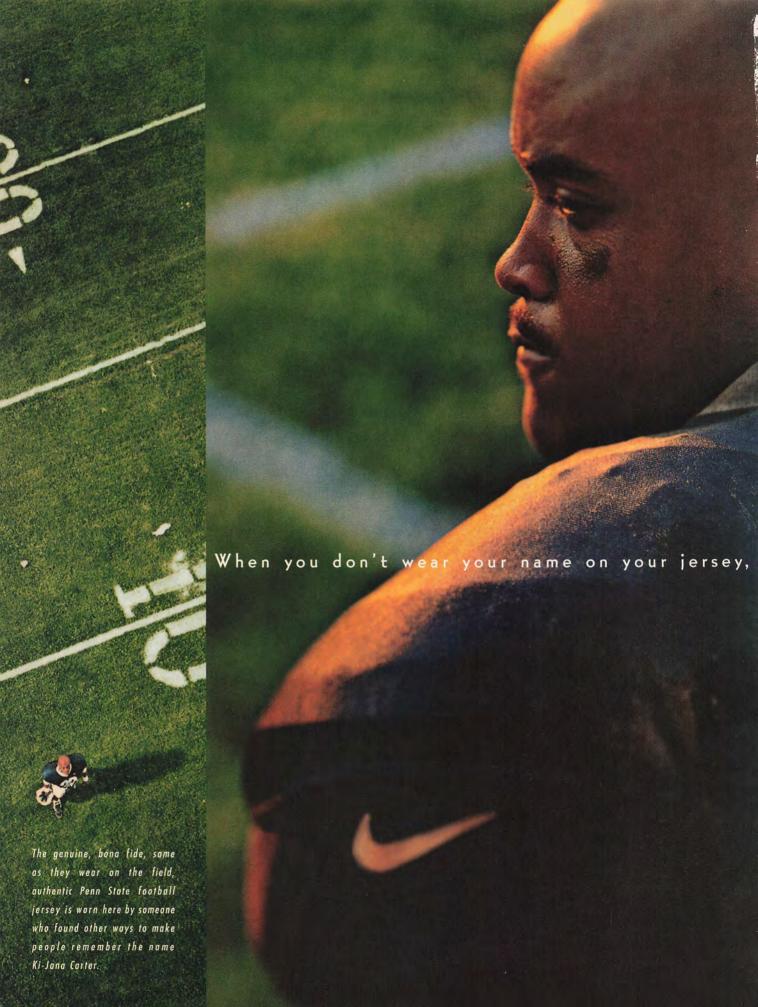
### **Tough Act to Follow**

Although six college football teams (in brown below) have staked at least a partial claim to a repeat title in the past 40 years, no school has won back-to-back consensus national championships since the 1955–56 Oklahoma Sooners. Here's a look at each national champ since '55 (teams listed were No. 1 in both polls unless otherwise noted) and how they fared the next season.

Year	Champion	RECORD	Соасн	FOLLOWING-YEAR RESULT*
1955	Oklahoma	11-0	Bud Wilkinson	10-0, won national title
1956	Oklahoma	10-0	Bud Wilkinson	10-1, ranked 4th, 4th
1957	Auburn (AP)	10-0	Shug Jordan	9-0-1, ranked 4th, 4th
	Ohio State (UP)	9-1	Woody Hayes	6-1-2, ranked 8th, 7th
1958	LSU	11-0	Paul Dietzel	9-2, ranked 3rd, 3rd
1959	Syracuse	11-0	Ben Schwartzwalder	7-2, ranked 19th, unranked
1960	Minnesota	8-2	Murray Warmath	8-2, ranked 6th, 6th
1961	Alabama	11-0	Bear Bryant	10-1, ranked 5th, 5th
1962	usc	11-0	John McKay	7–3, unranked, 16th
1963	Texas	11-0	Darrell Royal	10-1, ranked 5th, 5th
1964	Alabama	10-1	Bear Bryant	9-1-1, ranked 1st, 4th
1965	Alabama (AP)	9-1-1	Bear Bryant	11-0, ranked 3rd, 3rd
	Michigan St. (UPI)	10-1	Duffy Daugherty	9-0-1, ranked 2nd, 2nd
1966	Notre Dame	9-0-1	Ara Parseghian	8-2, ranked 5th, 4th
1967	USC	10-1	John McKay	9-1-1, ranked 4th, 2nd
1968	Ohio State	10-0	Woody Hayes	8-1, ranked 4th, 5th
1969	Texas	11-0	Darrell Royal	10-1, ranked 3rd, 1st
1970	Texas (UPI)	10-1	Darrell Royal	8-3, ranked 18th, 12th
	Nebraska (AP)	11-0-1	Bob Devaney	13-0, won national title
1971	Nebraska	13-0	Bob Devaney	9-2-1, ranked 4th, 9th
1972	USC	12-0	John McKay	9-2-1, ranked 8th, 7th
1973	Notre Dame (AP)	11-0	Ara Parseghian	10-2, ranked 6th, 4th
	Alabama (UPI)	11-1	Bear Bryant	11-1, ranked 5th, 2nd
1974	USC (UPI)	10-1-1	John McKay	8-4, ranked 17th, 19th
	Oklahoma (AP)	11-0	Barry Switzer	11–1, won national title
1975	Oklahoma	11-1	Barry Switzer	9-2-1, ranked 5th, 6th
1976	Pittsburgh	12-0	Johnny Majors	9-2-1, ranked 8th, 7th
1977	Notre Dame	11-1	Dan Devine	9-3, ranked 7th, 6th
1978	USC (UPI)	12-1	John Robinson	11-0-1, ranked 2nd, 2nd
	Alabama (AP)	11-1	Bear Bryant	12-0, won national title
1979	Alabama	12-0	Bear Bryant	10-2, ranked 6th, 6th
1980	Georgia	12-0	Vince Dooley	10-2, ranked 6th, 5th
1981	Clemson	12-0	Danny Ford	9-1-1, ranked 8th, ineligible
1982	Penn State	11-1	Joe Paterno	8-4-1, unranked, 17th
1983	Miami	11-1	H. Schnellenberger	8-5, ranked 18th, unranked
1984	BYU	13-0	LaVell Edwards	11-3, ranked 16th, 17th
1985	Oklahoma	11-1	Barry Switzer	11-1, ranked 3rd, 3rd
1986	Penn State	12-0	Joe Paterno	8-4, unranked, unranked
1987	Miami	12-0	Jimmy Johnson	11-1, ranked 2nd, 2nd
1988	Notre Dame	12-0	Lou Holtz	12-1, ranked 2nd, 3rd
1989	Miami	11-1	Dennis Erickson	10-2, ranked 3rd, 3rd
1990	Colorado (AP)	11-1-1	Bill McCartney	8-3-1, ranked 20th, 18th
	Georgia Tech (UPI)	11-0-1	Bobby Ross	8-5, unranked, unranked
1991	Miami (AP)	12-0	Dennis Erickson	11–1, ranked 3rd, 3rd
	Washington (CNN/USA Too	day) 12–0	Don James	9-3, ranked 11th, 11th
1992	Alabama	13-0	Gene Stallings	9-3-1, ranked 14th, 13th
1993	Florida State	12–1	Bobby Bowden	10-1-1, ranked 4th, 5th
1994	Nebraska	13-0	Tom Osborne	?
*AP (v	vriters' poll) rankir	na listed fi	rst followed by I	JPI or CNN/USA

\*AP (writers' poll) ranking listed first, followed by UPI or CNN/USA Today (coaches' poll) ranking.

Years of existence for polls: Associated Press, 1936–present; United Press International, 1950–90 (known as United Press before 1958); CNN/USA Today, 1991–present.







## TOP

- 1 USC
- 2 AUBURN
- 3 TEXAS A&M
- 4 NEBRASKA
- 5 FLORIDA STATE
- 6 FLORIDA
- 7 PENN STATE
- 8 COLORADO
- 9 TENNESSEE
- 10 NOTRE DAME
- 11 ALABAMA
- 12 OKLAHOMA
- 13 MIAMI
- 14 MICHIGAN
- 15 N.C. STATE
- 16 WASHINGTON
- 17 COLORADO STATE
- 18 BOSTON COLLEGE
- 19 KANSAS STATE
- 20 ARIZONA
- 21 TEXAS
- 22 OHIO STATE
- 23 SOUTH CAROLINA
- 24 BYU
- 25 ILLINOIS



### SEC

### EASTERN DIVISION

- 1 Florida (6)
- 2 Tennessee (9)
- 3 So. Carolina (23)
- 4 Georgia
- 5 Vanderbilt
- 6 Kentucky

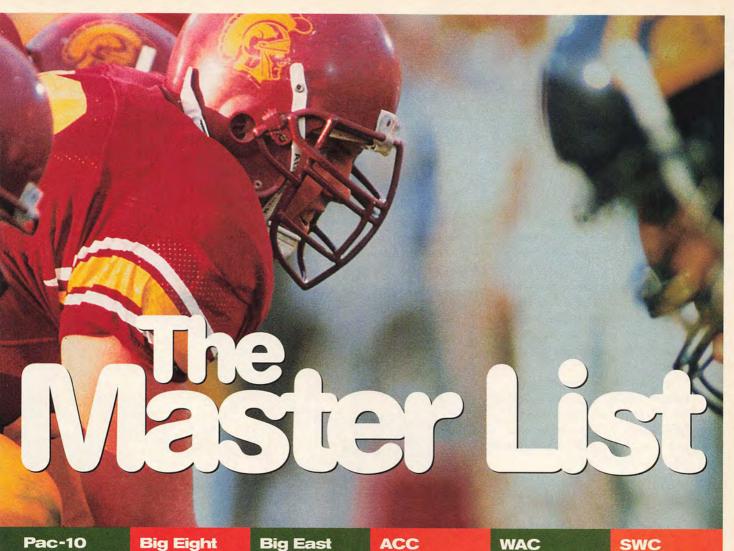
### WESTERN DIVISION

- 1 Auburn (2)
- 2 Alabama (11)
- 3 Mississippi St.
- 4 Mississippi
- 5 LSU
- 6 Arkansas

### **Big Ten**

- 1 Penn State (7)
- 2 Michigan (14)
- 3 Ohio State (22)
- 4 Illinois (25)
- 5 Wisconsin
- 6 Purdue
- 7 Michigan State
- 8 lowa
- 9 Indiana
- 10 Minnesota
- 11 Northwestern





	ac-	
10 INC.		 •

- 1 USC (1)
- 2 Washington (16)
- 3 Arizona (20)
- 4 Oregon
- 5 UCLA
- 6 California
- 7 Oregon State 8 Washington St.
- 9 Stanford
- 10 Arizona State

- 1 Nebraska (4)

- 5 Kansas
- 7 Oklahoma St.
- 8 Iowa State

- 2 Colorado (8)
- 3 Oklahoma (12)
- 4 Kansas St. (19)
- 6 Missouri

- 1 Miami (13)
- 2 Boston Coll. (18)
- 3 Virginia Tech
- 4 West Virginia
- 5 Syracuse
- 6 Pittsburgh
- 7 Rutgers
- 8 Temple

- 1 Florida St. (5)
- 2 N.C. State (15)
- 3 North Carolina
- 4 Virginia
- 5 Clemson
- 6 Duke
- 7 Georgia Tech
- 8 Maryland
- 9 Wake Forest

- 1 Colorado St. (17)
  - 2 BYU (24)
  - 3 Fresno State
  - 4 Utah
  - 5 Air Force
  - 6 San Diego St.
  - 7 Wyoming
  - 8 New Mexico
  - 9 UTEP
  - 10 Hawaii

- 1 Texas A&M(3)
- 2 Texas (21)
- 3 Texas Tech
- 4 TCU
- 5 Baylor
- 6 Rice
- 7 Houston
- 8 SMU





### TUSC

One afternoon last spring, USC senior wideout Keyshawn Johnson was navigating the streets of his old ganginfested Los Angeles neighborhood in a road-weary 1989 Honda Accord when he stopped to provide commentary for his traveling partner. "That's Ernie. He's the neighborhood mechanic, fixes everybody's cars," said Johnson. "Over there, that's Vurnelle. She's been here as long as I can remember."

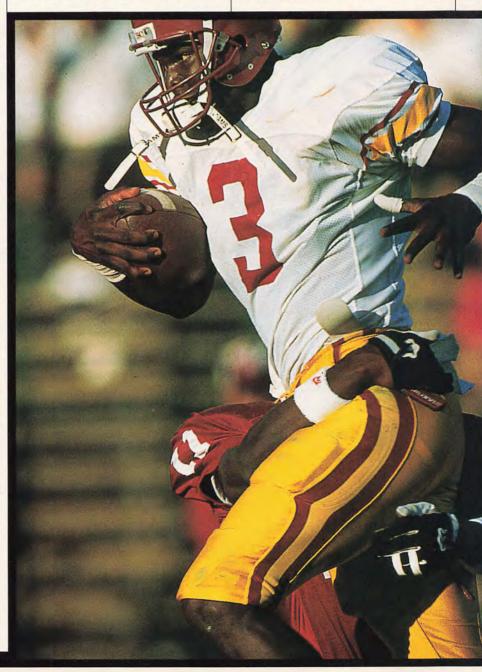
A guy on a bicycle then pulled up alongside Johnson's car and needled him. "We're going to beat UCLA this year," the cyclist said, "just like we beat y'all back in the Freedom Bowl." And then he rode off around the corner.

"That's Rashad Turner," said Johnson.
"Goes to Fresno State. Man, I'm tired of hearing about Fresno State."

The disdain for Fresno State dates back three seasons, when the proud USC program hit rock bottom in a 24–7 loss to the Bulldogs in the Freedom Bowl on Dec. 29, 1992. That defeat led to the dismissal of coach Larry Smith and the rehiring of John Robinson. It has been Robinson's charge to expunge the bitter taste left by that night in Anaheim—"I had people call me who were really upset about that game," says former USC and Los Angeles Ram quarterback Pat Haden, now a trustee of the university—and to restore the school's lost glory.

What Robinson has done in less than three years—and with just two full recruiting seasons—is remarkable. The Trojans are 16-8-1 in two seasons of Robinson II, and possessed of a community spirit that had been lacking. "The guy [Robinson] is amazing," says Washington Redskin coach Norv Turner, who was an assistant at USC under Robinson from 1976 to '82. "He's brought life back into that place. The enthusiasm he brings is unique."

Robinson has also brought talent. It is one thing to seize upon intangibles, but what USC really needed to reestablish itself was better players. "When I first got here, our scout team was the equivalent of walk-ons," says fifth-year senior center Jeremy Hogue. There was some talent in place when Robinson returned: Johnnie Morton (Detroit Lions) and Willie McGinest (New England Patriots) are already in the NFL; Tony Boselli was the second player taken in April's draft, and quarterback Rob Johnson was selected in the fourth round. "We had some good players," says Robinson. "But the distance from the bottom player to the top player was, I thought, tremendous." At USC the practice motto once was: "Big man on big man," as spoken by former assistant coach



Mary Goux. It had become: Big man on little, slow man.

But the quality has risen swiftly. USC enters the fall with the possibility of having as many as 10 starters from the watershed recruiting class of 1994, which included 20 high school and junior college All-Americas. This year's class—led by cornerback Daylon McCutcheon, the son of former Ram running back Lawrence McCutcheon—is also strong. The plan is to have McCutcheon in the starting lineup soon.

Robinson also plans a return to a



Trojan hopes for a title rest largely in the talented hands of Johnson.

reliance on the tailbacks, with much expected from a pair of Texans: junior Shawn Walters and sophomore Delon Washington. Twice last year Walters ran for more than 200 yards, while Washington, a true freshman in '94, rushed for 153 yards in the first two games. He sat the remainder of the season while questions regarding his ACT score were resolved.

The star power at USC, however, rests firmly with Keyshawn Johnson, the 6'4", 210-pound senior who was not only raised in the mean streets near USC, but also spent much of his childhood watching Trojan practices and spending time with USC coaches and players.

Johnson arrived at USC via Dorsey High School and West Los Angeles (junior) College, and has matured into a dangerous Michael Irvin clone. Irvin, in fact, is Johnson's idol. Johnson feasts on small defensive backs and keeps up a running dialogue with the defense. "I talk a lot of crap, but I usually back my talk up," he says. He passed up NFL money last spring, which should heighten the pressure this fall. "Pressure," he says, recalling his younger years, "was walking out my front door."

The Trojans are neither fully complete nor unbeatable. They play at Arizona, Notre Dame and Washington, and their defense must be better than the 385 yards a game it gave up last year if they are to be national champions. Brad Otton, a senior transfer from Weber State who played in seven games last season, and fifth-year senior Kyle Wachholtz will battle for the quarterback job. "Neither one is experienced, and that could bite us at some point," Robinson says.

But there is one interesting statistic to consider. "This is my third year," Robinson says. "My first time here, we won the national championship in my third year [1978]. My third year with the Rams, we went to the NFC Championship Game. Good things happen in my third year."

USC hasn't been to the Rose Bowl since the 1989 season, hasn't beaten Notre Dame since 1982 and hasn't won a national championship since 1978. Good things are due.

—TIM LAYDEN

### THE DATA BOX

Head coach: John Robinson Career college record: 88-22-3 10th year at USC (88-22-3)

1994 RECORD: 8-3-1

Pac-10 record: 6-2 (tied for second)

W Washington 24-17

L at Penn State 38-14

W Baylor 37-27

L Oregon 22-7

W at Oregon State 27-19

W at Stanford 27-20

W California 61-0

W at Washington State 23-10

W Arizona 45-28

L at UCLA 31-19

T Notre Dame 17-17

W Texas Tech 55-14 (Cotton Bowl)

Final '94 ranking: 13 AP, 15 CNN/USA Today

Lettermen lost: 17 Lettermen returning: 50 Returning starters, offense: 7 Returning starters, defense: 6

KEY GAMES: Sept. 23 at Arizona Oct. 21 at Notre Dame Oct. 28 at Washington

### PLAYER TO WATCH

he first thing you notice about USC sophomore defensive tackle Darrell Russell is his calves. "Bigger than my thighs," says the Trojans' fifth-year senior quarterback, Kyle Wachholtz, who weighs 220 pounds. Russell's legs are oaken masses, providing the power that will make him a feared lineman this fall. At 6' 4½" and 320 pounds, he is one of the reasons the Trojan defense should be much improved.

Russell came to USC's attention during his junior year at St. Augustine High School in San Diego when his coach sent a videotape of Russell, then 6'3" and 280 pounds, dunking a basketball after taking only one step to the rim. "Woke me up," says USC defensive coordinator Keith Burns.

At practice one day Russell also woke up All-America offensive tackle Tony Boselli by beating him easily. "Boselli pulled me aside," recalls Russell. "He said, 'If you go full speed, nobody can block you.'"

Count on full speed and a long day for any lineman who faces him.



### 2/Aubum

His partner was about to tee off, so he had to whisper. But as the words bubbled up and spilled forth from Tiger coach Terry Bowden, his decibel level rose with every syllable. "I want Auburn to be considered a national championship contender every year," Bowden said. "You aren't going to win it every time. Heck, Nebraska was a contender every year for 10 years before they won it. But we've been contenders the last two years. This season is our chance to prove we belong with the best on a consistent basis."

After his partner hit—somehow cleanly striking the ball in spite of the background chatter—Bowden grabbed an eight-iron and stepped into the tee box on the par-3 4th hole at the Auburn Links golf course. He took one hasty practice swing, then whacked the ball. His shot rocketed high into the April sky, heading straight at the pin 130 yards away. But, as if to provide an illustration of what Bowden had just said, the ball landed on the fringe of the green.

Almost a great shot. Almost a great team.

Over the last two seasons, the Tigers went 20-1-1; only Nebraska won more regular-season games in that span. But much of Auburn's success has been clouded by pay-for-play violations that surfaced in 1992, prompting NCAA sanctions that prevented the school from going to a bowl for the past two years. "A lot of people seem to think that the last two years have been flukes," says Patrick Nix, Auburn's fifth-year senior quarterback. "This season the country will learn how good we are."

This good: These Tigers may be Bowden's best team yet. Auburn's rise can be traced back to a decision Bowden made soon after replacing Pat Dye in December 1992. When hired to clean up a scandal, most coaches implement a policy of cutand-burn. But Bowden, in what turned out to be a wise move, chose to retain three key members of Dye's staff. In his first season, with 15 starters back from a team that had finished 5–6, Bowden went 11–0 to quickly lift Auburn out of the ashes. "It was a matter of us doing the little things," Bowden says, "like practicing harder than ever before and simply being disciplined in the way we play and in the way we approach the game."

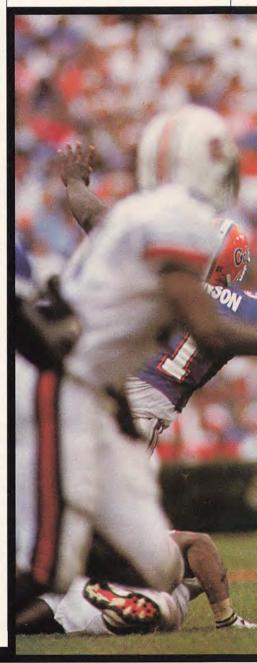
Even more than his fabled surname, it has been Bowden's ability to win games in the second half that is creating a mythology in Auburn that he is somehow a blessed coach. Of the Tigers' 20 victories under him, eight have come when they trailed or were tied during the second half. And some of the rallies have been so amazing—like last year's 36–33 victory over Florida in Gainesville—that at times it seems that Bowden must indeed benefit from divine intervention.

Nix was at the helm in all three of last season's comebacks. He played for his father, Conrad, at Etowah High in Rainbow City, Ala., and has the sort of cerebral, mistake-free game that Bowden demands from his quarterbacks. With eight offensive starters returning (including the entire line and the tight end), an attack that finished fourth overall in the SEC last season is potentially one of the most lethal in the nation. "Our offense is comparable to Penn State's last year," says Nix, who passed for 2,206 yards and 13 touchdowns as a first-year starter in '94. "We don't have any weaknesses."

An obvious strength is 6'2", 233-pound senior tailback Stephen Davis, who gained 1,263 yards on 221 carries last season. Davis runs the 40 in 4.3 and can power through tackles. If he avoids fumbles (nine last season), he should make a serious charge at the Heisman Trophy.

"I'm not going to run him 35 times to get him the Heisman," Bowden says. "But I will run him as much as he shows me he can handle it. He's awful good."

Lining up at fullback will be sophomore Fred Beasley, last year's backup at tailback, who will have to play an even larger role in the passing game because both starting wide receivers are gone. Frank Sanders, who was drafted in the second round by the Arizona Cardinals, and Thomas Bailey combined for 99 receptions and 1,460 yards in '94. Their replacements, junior Willie Gosha and



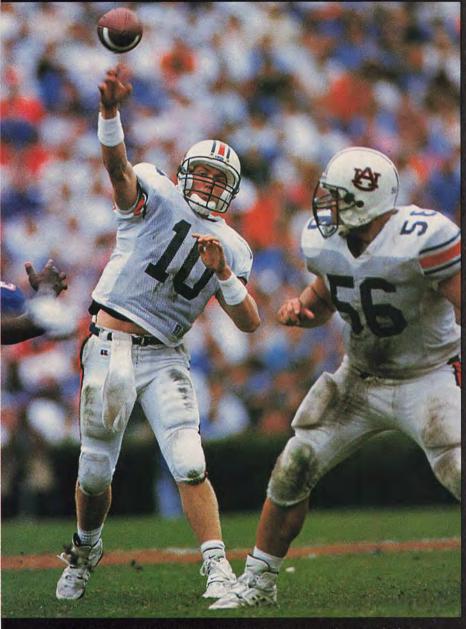
sophomore Tyrone Goodson, have no starts and only 24 career catches between them.

On defense, the Tigers lost their entire front line to graduation. To compensate for the dearth of experienced linemen, defensive coordinator Wayne Hall has switched the scheme from a 4–3 back to the 3–4 Auburn used during most of the '80s. The shift allows Hall to exploit one of the quickest sets of linebackers in the nation, led by senior Anthony Harris inside and junior Marcellus Mostella outside. Freshman 'backer Takeo Spikes

from Washington County (Ga.) High, the prize catch of the Tigers' best recruiting class ever, will see time as well. "We have good overall speed and talent on defense," says Bowden, "but the jury is still out on how good they'll be."

If the defensive line matures as Bowden expects, then the Tigers will make a run at the national title. They'll probably have to beat Florida twice—both at home on Oct. 14 and at Atlanta in the SEC championship game—but don't put anything past Bowden. Except hitting those greens.

—LARS ANDERSON



With the heady Nix in charge, the Tigers can never be counted out.

### THE DATA BOX

Head coach: Terry Bowden Career college record: 84-37-2 Third year at Auburn (20-1-1)

### 1994 RECORD: 9-1-1

SEC record: 6-1-1 (ineligible for conference title)

W at Mississippi 22-17

W Northeast Louisiana 44-12

W ISH 30-26

W East Tennessee State 38-0

W Kentucky 41-14

W at Mississippi State 42-18

W at Florida 36-33

W Arkansas 31-14

W East Carolina 38-21

T Georgia 23-23

L Alabama 21-14 (at Birmingham)

Final '94 ranking: 9 AP, ineligible for CNN/USA Today

Lettermen lost: 19 Lettermen returning: 43 Returning starters, offense: 8 Returning starters, defense: 5

KEY GAMES: Sept. 16 at LSU Oct. 14 Florida Nov. 18 Alabama

### PLAYER TO WATCH

n one of college football's most memorable drives last season,

Willie Gosha made the catch of his career.

With Auburn trailing Florida 33–29 and less than a minute remaining, Gosha snagged a Patrick Nix bullet along the sideline and dragged his back foot inbounds for a 20-yard completion. On the next play, Frank Sanders caught the touchdown pass that capped the Tigers' comeback.

Sanders is gone to the NFL now, leaving Gosha (pronounced GO-shay) as the Tigers' go-to receiver. "I feel like I'm the kind of receiver Frank was," says Gosha. "Just throw it up there and I can get it. And like Frank, I can turn a short catch into a long run."

A 6' 1", 171-pound junior from Fort Walton Beach, Fla., Gosha has only nine career receptions. And on that final drive in Gainesville, he had a drop as well as that spectacular grab. "Willie is very talented," says coach Terry Bowden. "He just has to show that he can make the big plays that Frank did." The Tigers are counting on it.

### ETEXES A&M

espite running their streak of Southwest Conference games without a loss to 29, finishing with a 10-0-1 record and ranking No. 8 in the final AP poll, the Aggies could not make a fourth straight appearance in the Cotton Bowl last season because of NCAA sanctions. Instead, five schools with records of 4-3 wound up sharing the conference title, and Texas Tech ended up playing in Dallas on Jan. 2. "It was so disappointing to see all these teams go to bowls and get rings they didn't deserve," Texas A & M linebacker Keith Mitchell says. "Then they came back and bragged about it!"

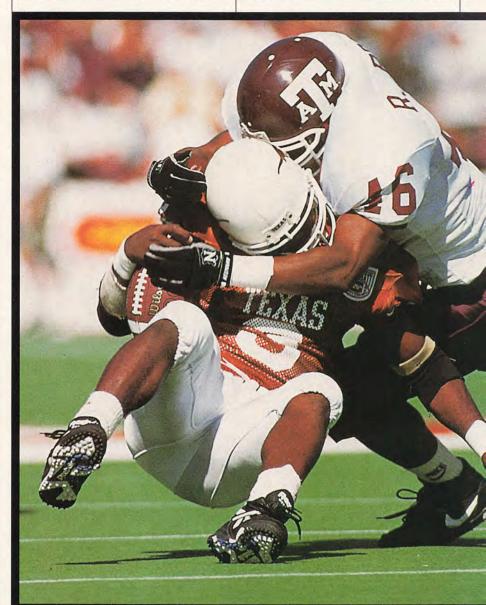
With their probation ended this year, the Ags can have the last word in the SWC and once again play in Big D. The only thing is, they have no interest in going there. Coach R.C. Slocum & Co. have set their sights on the site of the bowl alliance championship game, the Fiesta Bowl; indeed, a photo of Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz., adorns the A & M locker room. And with talent galore at the skill positions, a wealth of speed on defense and a schedule watered down by those mouthy pretenders to their conference throne, the Aggies stand a good chance of projecting themselves into the national title picture.

Corey Pullig is back for his fourth straight season as the starter at quarterback. He is 6'3" and 205 pounds, with a strong right arm, a sharp mind and keen leadership skills. "He's gotten much better at throwing the ball every year," Slocum says. "I'd say he's similar now to Kerry Collins at Penn State last year." Pullig's efficiency rating of 134.8 ranks 11th among the nation's returning starters, but his most telling number is 87.5: That's his winning percentage over the last three years. "The only stat I'm

real worried about is W's and L's," Pullig says. "And I've done plenty in that department already."

At his disposal Pullig has a pair of flankers with genes to burn: Aaron Oliver, the son of ex-major-league slugger Al, and Kevin Beirne, the son of ex-Houston Oiler receiver Jim. The split end is junior Danny McCray, a two-time All-America as a 400-meter man in track. But there is a more vital part of A & M's Mac-Attack: tailback Leeland McElroy (page 46), a Heisman Trophy contender who carried only 130 times as a backup last season but still gained 707 yards and scored nine TDs. He also racked up 301 yards on a mere six kickoff returns. "We're going to keep handing it to him or tossing it to him until he tells us he's too tired to go again," offensive coordinator Steve Ensminger says.

If McElroy does need a breather, Slocum has four freshmen running studs from four states in his stable: Sirr Parker



The Aggies, with the bruising Brown (46), should wrap up the last SWC title.

from Los Angeles; Eric Bernard from Tulsa; Michael Jennings from Aurora, Colo.; and D'Andre Hardeman from Galena Park, Texas. Anchored by junior guard Calvin Collins and senior tackle Hunter Goodwin, the offensive line promises to be more mobile than last season's. It will also benefit from the return of line coach Mike Sherman, who came to the Aggies in 1989 but spent last season at UCLA.

In former Aggie defensive end and ex–LSU assistant Phil Bennett, A & M will have its third defensive coordinator in three years. But Bennett has no plans to tamper with the ultra-aggressive nature of



the so-called Wrecking Crew, which ranked fifth in the nation in total defense last season. On the contrary, his main challenge may be keeping his explosive charges from accidentally smacking into each other. "Those guys are unbelievable," Pullig says. "There's not one guy on our defense you're going to be able to outrun."

The heart of the unit is a quartet of linebackers who average 4.59 in the 40 and are led by senior Reggie Brown (6'2", 232 pounds) on the outside and sophomore Trent Driver (6'3", 222) on the inside. "Reggie just makes a bunch of good plays," Slocum says. "Blitzing, tackling guys out in the flat, pass coverage, chasing down the ball going away from him, things like that. The pro guys love him."

Driver, a blue-chip prospect in 1994 from Cleveland (Texas) High, has already made an impression on his new boss. "You look at him in drill work and he's not bad," Bennett says. "But get him in a team situation and he's something to behold." Backing up the 'backers is a secondary that has three returning starters, including solid cover corner Ray Mickens.

On a team that's solid on almost every front, A & M's only glaring weakness is the anemic nature of its SWC opposition. True, the scarcity of quality foes will mean a real shot at an undefeated season. But with no top-ranked teams to knock off, any loss will send the Aggies into a death spiral in the polls. "If we win all our games, we're going to be in there-1, 2 or 3," says Slocum, who enters his seventh year at the helm. "We'll have a shot to play for it." The "it" is understood around College Station, where running roughshod over a dying conference is no longer enough. In the '90s, only Alabama, Florida State and Miami have won more games than Texas A & M. Those three schools have rings to show for "it."

"Four or five years ago it was premature for us to talk about the national championship, and I downplayed that kind of talk," Slocum says. "I felt we had to establish some credibility. We've done that. Now it's the next logical step for us."

—HANK HERSCH

### THE DATA BOX

Head coach: R.C. Slocum Career college record: 59-12-2 Seventh year at Texas A&M (59-12-2)

1994 RECORD: 10-0-1

SWC record: 6-0-1 (ineligible for conference title)

W at LSU 18-13

W Oklahoma 36-14

W Southern Mississippi 41-17

W Texas Tech 23-17

W at Houston 38-7

W Baylor 41-21

W Rice 7-0

T at SMU 21-21

W at Texas 34-10

W at Louisville 26-10

W TCU 34-17

Final '94 ranking: 8 AP, ineligible for CNN/USA Toda

Lettermen lost: 24 Lettermen returning: 39 Returning starters, offense: 4 Returning starters, defense: 7

KEY GAMES: Sept. 2 LSU Sept. 23 at Colorado Dec. 2 Texas

### PLAYER TO WATCH

Hunter Goodwin had three priorities: winning, hunting and fishing. Since he had experienced only five victories in his four years as a two-way lineman at Bellville (Texas) High, and since his family had long hunted and fished in the southeast part of the state, Goodwin decided on Texas A & M-Kingsville. But after gaining all-conference honors as a tight end in his second year at the Division II powerhouse, he felt ready to bag even bigger game.

Goodwin headed to A & M and showed enough promise as a redshirt on the scout team to earn a scholarship for '94. But he is no longer a tight end. After beefing up 35 pounds, to 285, the 6'5" Goodwin begins his senior year as the Aggies' starting right tackle. In preseason conditioning, he set school records for an offensive lineman in the vertical jump (33 inches), the 20-yard shuttle (4.37 seconds) and the power clean (352 pounds). Without much ado, the Aggies reeled in a keeper.

### 4Nebraska

he sun had just emerged from a line of clouds when the moment arrived at last. Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne had been chasing this day for 22 years, but in the fading glow of an evening in April, those decades of lost opportunities seemed to melt away. In front of 40,000 fans at Memorial Stadium, he formally received the national championship trophy—or his albatross, as he had come to call it. But after 30 seconds of thunderous applause from the Nebraska faithful, Osborne cut the celebration short. "You better sit down, or this will take all night" he said, and then uttered a few thank-yous before returning to his seat on the dais.

Osborne might have been wise to milk the moment, because his chances of another day in the sun after the '95 season are not so good. Following the ceremony, 14 starters from the championship team walked off the field and disappeared into the stadium's catacombs for the final time. The most devastating losses are in the offensive line, where four of the five monoliths who made up the finest front wall in college football history have departed. Graduation also robbed the defense of seven starters who had helped the Huskers finish in the top 10 in all four major statistical categories last season, marking the third time that had happened at Nebraska since World War II.

"We lost some very good players," says Osborne. "We'll count on true freshmen more than we have in a long time to give us depth at three or four positions."

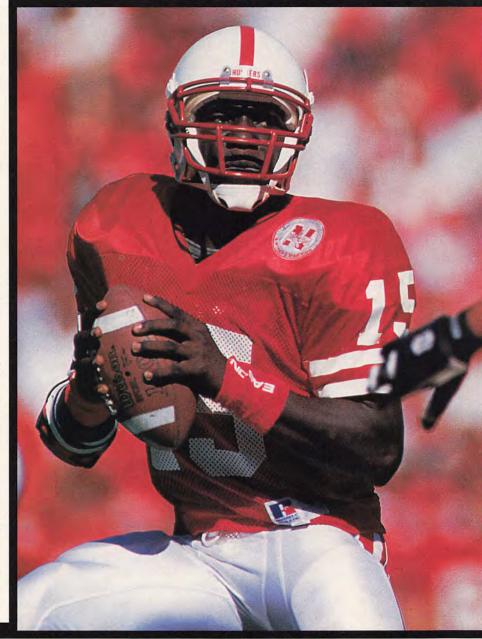
It isn't just the exodus of experienced players that concerns Osborne. Two of the returning starters face court dates that could affect their futures with the team: Junior tailback Lawrence Phillips (page 68) was charged in June with disturbing the peace, while senior cornerback Tyrone Williams is awaiting trial on two felony weapons

charges. In addition, senior split end Reggie Baul pleaded guilty to possession of stolen property in March and was sentenced to 20 hours of community service.

Even with these departures and legal difficulties, though, there is a feeling in Lincoln that 1995 might be as magical as

'94. Says Osborne, "Playing for anything less than the whole ball of wax this season would be anticlimactic."

The competition for so many open positions has made Nebraska a hungry team. For example, consider the offseason emergence of senior quarterback Brook Berringer. At winter drills, Berringer, who was 7–0 as a starter last season, earned the highest-ever performance index rating (which measures athleticism based on weight) for a Husker QB. Never known for his speed, Berringer ran a 4.63 40. In one practice session during the off-season, he got a



rare "3" grade from the coaching staff for a pulverizing block he threw to spring a tailback for a touchdown.

"I'm not saying Brook didn't try hard before," says Turner Gill, Nebraska's quarterbacks coach. "But this year the quarterback situation is much more competitive, especially on Brook's part."

Says Berringer, "I don't feel I've reached my potential yet. I'm looking forward to winning the starting job and proving how well I can play."

The second-highest performance index rating ever for a Husker quarterback belongs to Tommie Frazier, who is 21–3 as

The likely starter at quarterback, Frazier may return punts as well.

a starter and ran a 4.61 40 over the winter. He is no longer taking anticoagulant medication for the blood clots in his right leg that caused him to miss eight games last season, and he has worked diligently on his mechanics to improve his passing. It seems to be working: In the spring game, Frazier threw for a game-record 228 yards. He also practiced returning punts, a role he filled in high school.

Osborne has said he won't make a decision on who will start at quarterback until the week before the team's season opener at Oklahoma State on Aug. 31. But the odds that Berringer will start at Stillwater are about as good as those that Osborne will do stand-up on *The Tonight Show*. Even more than his physical skills, it is Frazier's ability to rally his team to victory—unparalleled in the Big Eight since Jamelle Holieway (Oklahoma) and Darian Hagan (Colorado) were taking their teams to national titles in 1985 and '90, respectively—that makes him so valuable.

The Huskers are well-stocked at the other skill positions. If Nebraska doesn't jump out to huge first-half leads that would diminish his playing time, Phillips could challenge Mike Rozier's school record of 2,148 yards in a season. "Our backfield may be one of the very best we've had in terms of quality players with experience," says Osborne.

The defense will be led by the brother tackle tandem of Christian and Jason Peter, who together form a 560-pound wrecking ball. The rest of the unit is mostly made up of quick, relatively small players, the kind that Osborne has been coveting since the 23–3 loss to Miami in the 1989 Orange Bowl. After that defeat Osborne decided to remake his defense in the image of Miami and Florida State, with speed as a primary ingredient.

Nebraska should be able to glide through its nonconference schedule. And with Big Eight rivals Colorado and Oklahoma adjusting to new coaches and searching for championship-caliber quarterbacks, another national title isn't out of the question for the Huskers. Who knows? Osborne might even find something to say about a second one.

—LARS ANDERSON

### THE DATA BOX

Head coach: Tom Osborne Career college record: 219-47-3 23rd year at Nebraska (219-47-3)

1994 RECORD: 13-0

Big Eight record: 7-0 (first)

W West Virginia 31-0 (Kickoff Classic)

W at Texas Tech 42-16

W UCLA 49-21

W Pacific 70-21

W Wyoming 42-32

W Oklahoma State 32-3

W at Kansas State 17-6

W at Missouri 42-7

W Colorado 24-7

W Kansas 45-17

W at Iowa State 28-12

W at Oklahoma 13-3

W Miami 24-17 (Orange Bowl)

Final '94 ranking: 1 AP, 1 CNN/USA Today

Lettermen lost: 25 Lettermen returning: 56 Returning starters, offense: 4 Returning starters, defense: 4

KEY GAMES: Sept. 9 at Michigan State Oct. 28 at Colorado

Nov. 24 Oklahoma

### PLAYER TO WATCH

n the two-deep depth chart released before spring practice,

Jay Foreman was nowhere to be found. The redshirt freshman, who has the most famous last name on the Husker roster—his father, Chuck, is a former Pro Bowl running back for the Minnesota Vikings—was buried at fifth-string linebacker. But after amassing 10 tackles, two for losses, against the top offense in the Red-White game, the 6 1", 200-pound Foreman has emerged as Nebraska's starting strong-side linebacker.

"Foreman has really come on," says defensive coordinator Charlie McBride. "He came here with the ability to play running back, receiver or defensive back, but we decided right away to try him at linebacker."

Foreman, who played at Eden Prairie (Minn.) High for Mike Grant, the son of former Viking coach Bud Grant, will be one of seven new defensive starters for Nebraska. He is untested and undersized, but one thing is certain: He's quickly making a name for himself in Lincoln.

n a dimly lit lounge at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Neb., Lawrence Phillips sits alone in a corner. His eyes look downward at the scarlet carpet and his head rests on his right hand, like Rodin's *Thinker*. For Phillips this is a strategic pose, because as the rest of his teammates are talking into microphones and tape recorders, he is able to maintain his solitude simply by appearing to be lost in the land of his thoughts. After 10 uninterrupted minutes, Phillips rises quietly and walks toward the door. Alone.

"I try to avoid interviews at all cost,"
Phillips later said in his quiet voice. "I'm
not comfortable talking about myself, but
the coaches are getting on me to stop
ducking out when people want to talk to
me. I'm just a shy person who doesn't like
extra attention."

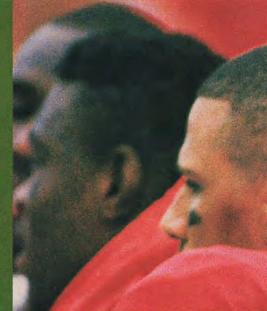
Perhaps that reticence is the main reason why Phillips remains curiously in the shadow of many of his teammates. The story line coming from Lincoln last season went from Tommie Frazier's blood clots to Brook Berringer's collapsed lung to the jaw-dropping performance of the offensive line. Even at the Orange Bowl, in which Phillips ignited Nebraska's fourth-quarter comeback with a twisting 25-yard dash, it was Frazier who was awash in the spotlight after the game. But consider the season Phillips had: He rushed for more yards than any other sophomore in Big Eight history (1,722), he finished third in the nation in rushing average and yards per carry (143.5 yards a game, 6.0 yards per carry), and he received more Heisman Trophy votes than any other player who returns this season.

"I honestly don't mind not getting the recognition that some people think I deserve," says Phillips, a 20-year-old junior from West Covina, Calif. "I don't have any personal goals. It's all team with me."

And the Heisman Trophy? "Sure, winning the Heisman would be nice," he says. "But I really don't think about it. The biggest thing on my mind is getting to the Fiesta Bowl."

Like Penn State's Ki-Jana Carter and Kerry Collins last season, Phillips and Frazier may unintentionally undermine each other's bids for the Heisman this season. Two players with award-winning credentials in the same backfield almost always diminish each other's star power. But that may be a blessing for Phillips.

Ever since he was 12 years old, when he moved out of his home and became a ward of the state, Phillips has been on his own. He has had the support of a social worker named Barbara Thomas, but he has essentially been without a family since the seventh grade. His past has made him fiercely independent, and he is something of an aberration among athletes: He quite



### LAWRENCE PHILLIPS

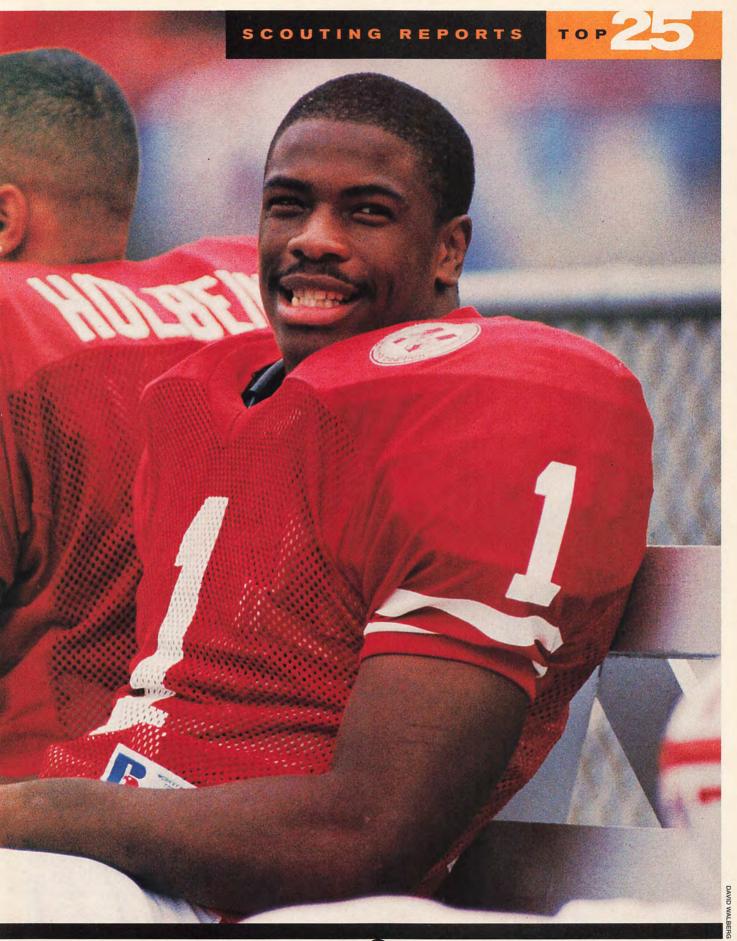
honestly disdains the attention that goes along with being the tailback at the most prodigious rushing school in the country.

"I try my best to maintain a low profile," says Phillips. "I stay home a lot and watch movies, because in Lincoln everything a football player does catches attention and is usually blown out of proportion. So I stay home like an average guy."

It was in 1987, while he was living in Inglewood with his mother, Juanita, that Lawrence's home life began to disintegrate, even as he started to habitually skip school. When his mother tried to discipline him, Lawrence merely drifted further away. The truancies continued until finally, when his mother could no longer control his roiling temper, school and state officials intervened and placed Lawrence in a foster home. After living there for two tempestuous weeks, he was transferred to Maclaren Hall, a juvenile detention center in El Monte.

At Maclaren Hall, Lawrence might have drowned in the system had he not been rescued by Thomas, who supervises a state-supported group home located in West Covina, a small city in the San Gabriel foothills east of Pasadena. "When I first saw Lawrence, he looked very athletic, but he was smoking cigarettes,"





says Thomas. "I knew sports would give him a chance, so I took him into our home and immediately enrolled him in sports leagues."

Phillips, who had previously played only street basketball, excelled in football, baseball and basketball. He approached athletics with a ferocity and a passion that belied his age, which was only 12. The rage that was his adversary off the field—"Lawrence had a behavior problem and got into multiple fights at the group home," says Thomas—became his ally on the field. And it quickly became apparent that his passion for sports could be Phillips's ticket out of the streets.

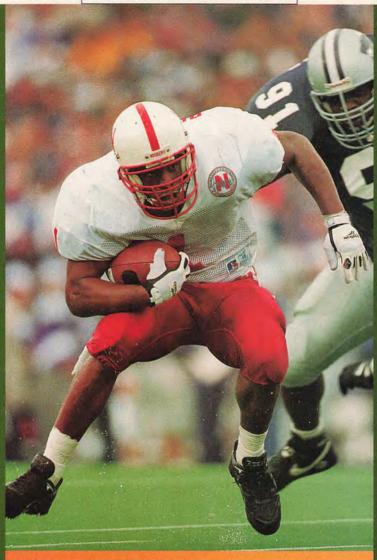
"I don't know where Lawrence would be today if it were not for athletics," says Ty Pagone, the assistant principal at Baldwin Park High, where Phillips attended school. "He could be dead. He could be in jail. It's just a

blessing that sports entered his life."

Says Phillips, "I'll always be thankful to the group home for getting me into sports."

Though he rarely opened a book to study while at the home, standardized tests in the eighth grade revealed Phillips to be intellectually gifted. But it wasn't until the beginning of the 11th grade that his attitude toward school underwent a transformation. It was Pagone who was largely responsible for inspiring Phillips to improve his study habits and begin making up required courses. Pagone helped Phillips understand that while athletics might be his calling, he would not be allowed to play in college if he did not take the requisite classes.

"After I saw Lawrence play football, I



A liability off the field, Phillips's ferocity serves him well on it.

told him that God gave him stuff he didn't give my kids," says Pagone. "He didn't understand he was blessed. We worked with him, counseled him, did everything we could to keep him from wasting his talent."

Because of his fractured past, Phillips had missed a number of courses, so to make up for lost time, he attended school from 6:50 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during part of his senior year. "It was a tough time," he says. "But I owe my school a lot. They stuck with me."

But when Phillips arrived in Nebraska—which was attractive in part because it was far from Los Angeles some of his old problems went with him. He was suspended for the first game of the '93 season for fighting. Last March, a student from Doane College accused Phillips of damaging his vehicle and a necklace during a confrontation on a city street. Phillips paid the student \$400, and all charges were dropped. Then, in June, Phillips was arrested on a charge of disturbing the peace after a late-night party in Lincoln, a charge for which he was still awaiting a court date at press time.

"I'm still working on controlling myself and my temper," says Phillips. "Lincoln has been a great city for me to grow up and mature in, and I'm learning to stay out of situations where I could get in trouble."

The Huskers are counting on that. Phillips was, after all, a catalyst of the run to the national title last season. Despite playing at various times with sore ankles, a pulled groin, a turf toe and a severely sprained left thumb, Phillips became the mainstay of the

offense after Frazier went out in the third game of the fall. Even though he often faced eight-man lines keyed to stop him, Phillips ran for more than 100 yards in 11 straight games last season, a Nebraska record.

"Lawrence has got the complete package," says coach Tom Osborne. "He's got speed, he's tough, he catches the ball well, he gets yards after contact and he can go the distance."

In what could be his last season as a Husker—"I'll look at my options after the season is over," he says—Phillips carries with him the hopes of a state. But as he walks out of the Memorial Stadium lounge, Lawrence Phillips is alone. He has been that way for a long time and has no plans to change. —LARS ANDERSON





### 5 Florida State

Every year we talk about the same thing," Florida State senior quarterback Danny Kanell says. "Winning the national championship is the only...."

Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. Come on, Danny, that tired line is used by every quarterback this side of Rutgers.

"No, I'm serious," insists Kanell. "We think we can win it every year."

The Seminoles, whose No. 4 ranking in 1994 gave them a record eight consecutive years in the final Top 5, are one of the few teams that have been able to back up such preseason yap in recent years.

Until Kanell provided some late-game heroics during the regular-season finale against fourth-ranked Florida last year, however, the seventh-ranked Seminoles' record streak was in jeopardy. Down 31–3 after the third quarter, Kanell hit 18 of 22 passes for 232 yards in the final period, leading the Seminoles to their greatest tie ever—and the Gators' most bitter. In the Sugar Bowl rematch a month later, FSU dumped Florida 23–17.

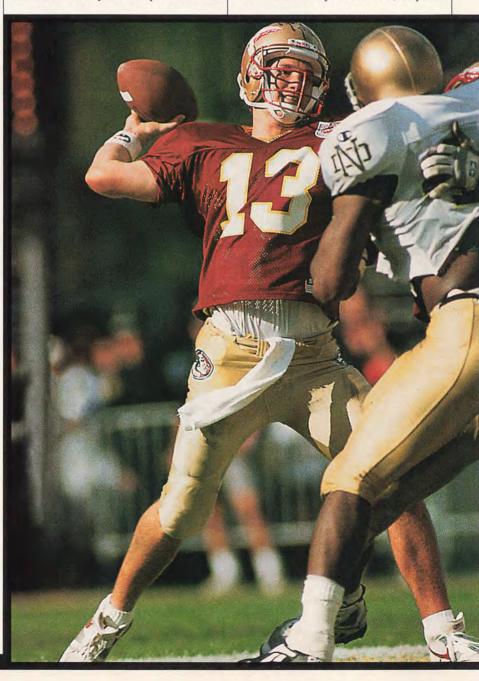
"The media and fans still talk about the tie, but we really don't bring it up much," Kanell says. "That was just one game. Our goal is still to be wire-to-wire Number 1...."

O.K., O.K. Once again, Florida State is a national title contender, and Kanell is the key. He's the third consecutive Seminole quarterback to return after starting his junior year; the last two, Casey Weldon and Charlie Ward, quarterbacked top-ranked teams for a combined 28 weeks during their senior seasons. This year, with Central Florida on the schedule instead of Notre Dame, there is less out-of-state competition to slow the Seminoles' pursuit of the top spot.

Kanell's numbers from his junior year are impressive enough to suggest that Florida State is a contender no matter whom they play. His 2,781 passing yards were the fourth-highest single-season total in school history, and his 227 completions ranked second. He is 11-1-1 as a starter; the lone loss came last year at Miami when coach Bobby Bowden pulled him at the end of the third quarter with the Seminoles down 31–17.

"If I had one thing to do over from last season, I would not have taken Danny out against Miami," Bowden says. "He just might have pulled off the comeback."

Kanell, who was the first-team All-ACC quarterback last season, has already been hyped as a Heisman candidate. However, he may be overshadowed in '95 by junior tailback Warrick Dunn. Dunn rushed for 1,026 yards last season, averaging 6.8 yards per carry. He became only the fifth back in Seminole history to rush for 1,000 yards



and the first since Sammy Smith accomplished that feat in 1987. Dunn, who is 5'9" and 178 pounds, rarely takes a direct hit. He relies on jukes and quickness, which leave defenders vulnerable to his surprising power.

"Warrick has that little extra move that puts a defender off-balance," senior Seminole linebacker Todd Rebol says. "That's how he breaks so many tackles."

Dunn may not have to break too many tackles to pick up big yards this season. Four of five offensive linemen return, led by three-year starter Clay Shiver at center.

If Kanell's deeds match his words, the Seminoles will cop another title.

Florida State's receivers will be short only on experience. Junior wide receiver Andre Cooper (6'2", 194 pounds), who caught five touchdowns as the No. 3 receiver last year, will be called on to carry much of the load. Kanell's favorite target may turn out to be sophomore tight end Melvin Pearsall (6'1", 242), who tied Cooper for the team lead with five scoring grabs in '94.

Bowden even gave placekicker Scott Bentley a look at receiver this spring. According to Kanell, Bentley, who has 4.52 speed, regularly burned the defensive backs in seven-on-seven passing drills.

A lowly kicker burning Florida State defensive backs? What would Deion think? Although Bentley is fast, his success in this spring's drills was more a reflection of the Seminoles' liabilities in the defensive backfield than of Bentley's prowess as a receiver. For the first time in five years, Florida State will be without a preseason All-America at safety or cornerback. There is talent and potential among players such as sophomore cornerback Samari Rolle (4.37 speed, tops on the team) and junior safety Sean Hamlet, but not much game experience.

The defense lost six starters from '94, with three of them going in the first round of the 1995 NFL draft: defensive end Derrick Alexander, safety Devin Bush and linebacker Derrick Brooks. Still, with the exception of the backfield, the Seminole defense should be solid.

The strength of the unit lies in the linebacking corps, led by Rebol and sophomore Daryl Bush. Rebol, who at 6 feet, 215 pounds is undersized but fast, will move to the free-roaming "bandit" position, replacing Brooks. Bush, meanwhile, will remain at inside linebacker, where he made a team-leading 86 tackles last season.

Senior defensive tackle Orpheus Roye may make some Seminole fans forget Alexander. A proven run-stopper, Roye displayed a monster pass rush this spring. If he and his fellow linemates can put pressure on opposing passers and take pressure off the young secondary, the Seminoles will once again be in the thick of things come New Year's Day. Right, Danny?

—J.B. MORRIS

### THE DATA BOX

Head coach: Bobby Bowden Career college record: 249-79-4 20th year at Florida State (176-47-4)

1994 RECORD: 10-1-1

ACC record: 8-0 (first)

W Virginia 41-17

W at Maryland 52-20

W at Wake Forest 56-14

W North Carolina 31-18

L at Miami 34-20

W Clemson 17-0

W Duke 59-20

W at Georgia Tech 41-10

W Notre Dame 23-16 (at Orlando)

W at N.C. State 34-3

T Florida 31-31

W Florida 23-17 (Sugar Bowl)

Final '94 ranking: 4 AP, 5 CNN/USA Today

Lettermen lost: 17 Lettermen returning: 54 Returning starters, offense: 7 Returning starters, defense: 5

KEY GAMES: Sept. 9 at Clemson Oct. 7 Miami Nov. 25 at Florida

### PLAYER TO WATCH

n a team whose players major in lip-flapping and minor in talking smack, the best defensive player on the field for the Seminoles is a reticent would-be artist who would rather draw sketches than attention. "Art makes me focused," says 6' 4", 275-pound senior defensive tackle **Orpheus Roye.** "It's relaxing, and I don't need the company of others to do it."

Voted most dominating defensive player this spring by the Seminole coaches, Roye will most likely replace Derrick Alexander as the dominant player on Florida State's defensive line.

"Orpheus was unreal this spring," says senior linebacker Todd Rebol. "Every time I could have had a tackle for a loss, he'd beat me to the play. He is just so fast."

Roye, an aspiring police sketch artist who majors in criminology and minors in art, knows that art and football are an odd mix. "Football players aren't supposed to have an artistic side," he says. "But on the field, I have a different personality—I'm not an artist, I'm a warrior."



# 6 Florida

Florida coach Steve Spurrier has done some impressive things over the last two years. He won the SEC title twice, fashioned the Gators' first 11-win season (1993) and led them to their first Sugar Bowl championship (after the '93 season). But he hasn't beaten a Bowden. Twenty-one-and-0 against the rest of the world and 0-4-1 against Florida State's Bobby and Auburn's Terry. Eliminate that pesky father-son combination and Spurrier might have two national championship rings instead of none.

It is not something Spurrier likes to discuss. When asked about the Bowden factor, Spurrier tends to don his offensive coordinator visor and say he's not coaching against Bobby or Terry, but against their defensive coordinators. O.K., Steve, as you wish. But we must ask: Is this the year you finally beat FSU's Mickey Andrews and Auburn's Wayne Hall? Because what's at stake is not just a national title, it's the image of the Gators, and their coach, as underachievers.

Last year Florida was the consensus No. 1 pick and quarterback Terry Dean the Heisman front-runner before the wheels fell off against 17-point underdog Auburn. How ugly was it? Dean threw four interceptions and was benched-never to return to the starting lineup—as Florida lost 36-33. Five weeks later Florida State fought back from a 31-3 deficit to tie Florida at 31 and to tie the NCAA record for fourth-quarter comebacks. Things continued downhill as a vicious fight between reserve nickelbackers Darren Hambrick and Anthony Riggins at a team dinner before the Sugar Bowl cast a pall over a game the Gators went on to lose 23-17 to the Seminoles and Bobby Bowden-er, Mickey Andrews. Can the Gators hope for smoother sailing this year?

A look at the offense (at Florida the

offense comes first—and goes first when the two units' buses depart hotels and stadiums) reveals another season of scorea-thons waiting to happen. The No. 1 quarterback going into the fall is junior

Danny Wuerffel, a prolific passer who survived last year's shuffle with Dean only to face a new challenge from Eric Kresser, a cannonarmed junior. Kresser, who throws the ball so hard that tight end Tremayne Allen says he "could hurt somebody," may be best known for the "hobble-off" play in last year's SEC championship game against Alabama. With the Gators trailing 23-17 late in the fourth quarter, Wuerffel feigned an injury and was replaced for one play by Kresser, who calmly fired a 25-yard bullet to freshman wideout Ike Hilliard at the Alabama 42, preserving a drive that would end in the winning TD. The play says a lot about both quarterbacks: Wuerffel is willing to let his understudy make the big play, and Kresser is able to step in and make it.

The Gators have

another available passer in junior Brian Schottenheimer, the son of Kansas City Chief coach Marty Schottenheimer. "If we get two of our quarterbacks hurt, we know we'll have someone who can go in and run the offense," says Spurrier. "We've got three quarterbacks who can play."

There will be no shortage of targets for any one of them, even with the early departure of wideout Jack Jackson to the NFL. Senior Chris Doering and sophomores Hilliard and Reidel Anthony lead a pack of fleet wideouts that Spurrier calls "probably the fastest group of wide



Wuerffel's '95 mission includes beating a Bowden.

receivers we've ever had at Florida."

Adding to the aerial threat is Allen, a walk-on who won a scholarship and the starting tight end job in spring practice. "I think my biggest motivation to make the team was not getting to travel to the SEC championship last year," says Allen, a junior. "Watching the team's celebration on TV really got to me."

That celebration came about largely because of Spurrier's offensive mind, which created plays like the hobble-off and the "Emery & Henry shift." But Spurrier's focus on the offense has often come at the expense of the defense, whose fortunes dipped dramatically with his arrival in 1990. After leading the league in total defense five times in the '80s, Florida dropped to ninth in the SEC and 44th in the nation in total defense in 1992. But since Spurrier installed Bob Pruett as coordinator a year ago, the defense has become respectable once again, giving up just 84.6 yards a game last year and leading the league against the rush. This year's line may not be as stingy, now that NFL first-round draft picks Kevin Carter and Ellis Johnson have departed. But

fortunately for the Gators, theirs is one of the best recruiting classes in the nation, and probably the best group of defensive recruits. High school All-Americas Reggie McGrew and Ernie Badeaux should provide quality backup help for ends Johnnie Church and Mark Campbell and tackles David Barnard and Keith Council.

At last, the secondary may shed its reputation as so much burned toast. Sophomore Fred Weary, who entered Florida as a wide receiver, will man the corners with Anthone Lott. We know Weary can run (his time in the 40 is under 4.4) and Lott can leap. Last year Lott vaulted an eight-foot fence to escape reporters after a practice.

If Bobby and Terry, and Mickey and Wayne, succumb this year, Spurrier and the Gators could make the big leap as well.

—KELLI ANDERSON

### THE DATA BOX

Head coach: Steve Spurrier Career college record: 69-25-2 Sixth year at Florida (49-12-1)

### 1994 RECORD 10-2-1

SEC record: 7-1 (first)

W New Mexico State 70-21

W Kentucky 73-7

W at Tennessee 31-0

W at Mississippi 38-14

W LSU 42-18

L Auburn 36-33

N Georgia 52-14

W Southern Mississippi 55-17

W South Carolina 48-17

W at Vanderbilt 24-7

at Florida State 31-31

W Alabama 24-23 (SEC championship)

L Florida State 23-17 (Sugar Bowl)

Final '94 ranking: 7 AP, 7 CNN/USA Today

Lettermen lost: 19 Lettermen returning: 42 Returning starters, offense: 6 Returning starters, defense: 5

KEY GAMES: Sept. 16 Tennessee Oct. 14 at Auburn Nov. 25 Florida State

### PLAYER TO WATCH

hen Florida takes on Houston in Gainesville on Sept. 2, the Gator offense will be in the hands of a center who has never snapped the ball in a game. But coaches have supreme confidence in 6'5", 287-pound junior Jeff Mitchell, who started at left guard last year and was a co-recipient of Florida's most outstanding offensive lineman award. "Jeff has certain qualities that I think make for a great center," says offensive line coach Jimmy Ray Stephens, a center and tight end at Florida in the '70s. "Quickness, intelligence, flexibility. It also doesn't hurt that Jeff is probably the strongest guy on our team."

A defensive lineman in high school, Mitchell broke into the Gator starting lineup at left guard before the SEC championship game in his redshirt freshman year. Says Mitchell, who runs a 4.9 40, "I'm not quick enough for the defensive line here, but I'm really quick for an offensive lineman." Best of all for the Gators, he'll be a quick study at center.





### 7 Penn State

Bobby Engram heard voices as he walked out of the tunnel and into the south end zone at Beaver Stadium for the Blue-White spring game. No, the Penn State senior wide receiver hadn't run one too many crossing routes; he was surrounded by fans calling his name, clamoring for his autograph. As Engram signed away in the shadow of a sign celebrating Penn State's two national titles, in '82 and '86, one couldn't help but wonder if there weren't another voice inside his head telling him he should be in New York waiting for NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue to call his name at the draft.

After all, Engram's roommate Ki-Jana Carter was already wearing a multiyear smile. By the time the spring scrimmage was over, former teammates Kerry Collins and Kyle Brady had followed Carter to the dais at the Paramount Theatre. Certainly Engram, last year's Fred Biletnikoff Award winner as the nation's top receiver, would have found welcoming arms in the NFL if he had declared for the draft. So why did he return to State College?

"I want to graduate, and I think we have a chance to be better this year," Engram says. "And, oh yes, I do want to play with Wally."

Wally, as in Richardson, is another Engram roommate and the quarterback who replaces departed All-America Collins in Penn State's high-powered attack. Richardson, a junior, has seen little duty with the first unit since 1992, his true freshman year, when injuries to starter John Sacca and backup Collins forced him into action in wins over Cincinnati and Temple. Though Wally Cleaver could have led Penn State to those wins, coach Joe Paterno is confident that a mature Richardson can guide the Penn State attack against more formidable foes.

"Wally had a good spring, and I've never

questioned his leadership," Paterno says.
"I worry about Wally the way I did about
Kerry—he just needs to get enough reps."

Richardson should have an easy breakin, with early games against Texas Tech,

Temple and Rutgers.
Another positive is
that Penn State's three
toughest opponents—
Wisconsin, Ohio State
and Michigan—all play
at Happy Valley in '95.

The offensive line is another reason why Richardson should succeed. The unit, led by senior All-America guard Jeff Hartings, allowed only three sacks in 1994 and has four of five starters returning. Even if Richardson gets pressured, he can count on the nation's best receiving tandem in Engram (52 catches, 1,029 yards, seven TDs) and junior Freddie Scott (47-973-9).

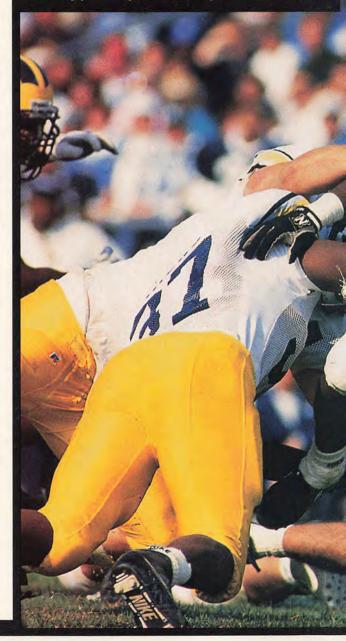
The Nittany Lions lost 56% of their rushing offense when Carter came out early for the draft, but the next seven leading rushers return.

Topping the list is senior tailback Mike Archie, whose versatility (303 yards rushing, 215 yards receiving)

compensates for a lack of explosiveness.

Last year Penn State lost its No. 1 ranking in the CNN/USA Today poll because the pass defense crumbled in a game against Indiana on Nov. 5. After the Hoosiers fell behind 35–14 midway through the fourth quarter, they took to the air and scored two touchdowns. Penn State won 35–29, but the close result prompted the pollsters to drop the topranked Lions to No. 2. Then, when Penn State needed an overwhelming victory in the Rose Bowl against Oregon to regain the top spot and win the national title, it

Archie (2) will step in for the departed Carter.



was again betrayed by the pass defense. Duck quarterback Danny O'Neil threw for 456 yards and kept Oregon close until the Nittany Lions pulled away in the second half to win 38–20. So what must Penn State do to shore up what is perceived as its biggest weakness? Absolutely nothing.

Penn State's secondary had more interceptions (eight) than touchdowns allowed (seven) through the first seven games last year. It had held USC's Rob Johnson to 221 yards and no touchdowns and had given up only 94 passing yards to

Ohio State. Then injuries doomed the defensive backfield. Junior safety Clint Holes and junior cornerback Mark Tate both sprained knees in Week 7. Two games later senior safety Cliff Dingle blew out his knee, and in Week 10 a similar injury knocked out junior safety Kim Herring. But last year's bad luck has made Penn State's defensive backfield deep in '95: Eight players with starting experience return.

The secondary, Paterno says, "is not as big a concern as other positions, namely the defensive line."

Should either of the defensive tackles,

senior Eric Clair or junior Brandon Noble, go down, Penn State may have to fill the hole with redshirt freshman Floyd Wedderburn (following page). At 6'7" and 320 pounds, Wedderburn has the size and potential to fill two or three holes, and he should see action early.

Penn State replaces linebackers like a shark replaces teeth: For every one that leaves, there are several sharp ones waiting to move in. Senior Terry Killens (42 stops) leads a group so deep that freshman Brandon Short, who was chosen as Pennsylvania's top high school player in '94 over Florida State's ballyhooed quarterback Dan Kendra, may see a lot of bench time.

If Penn State's defense can catch up to its offense, one more sign may soon be hanging in Beaver Stadium: 1995
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS.

—J.B. Morris

### THE DATA BOX

Head coach: Joe Paterno Career college record: 269-69-3 30th year at Penn State (269-69-3)

1994 RECORD: 12-0

Big Ten record: 8-0 (first)

W at Minnesota 56-3

W USC 38-14

W lowa 61-21

W Rutgers 55-27

W at Temple 48-21

W at Michigan 31-24

W Ohio State 63-14

W at Indiana 35-29

W at Illinois 35-31

W Northwestern 45-17

W Michigan State 59-31

W Oregon 38-20 (Rose Bowl)

Final '94 Ranking: 2 AP, 2 CNN/USA Today

Lettermen lost: 21 Lettermen returning: 42 Returning starters, offense: 7 Returning starters, defense: 4

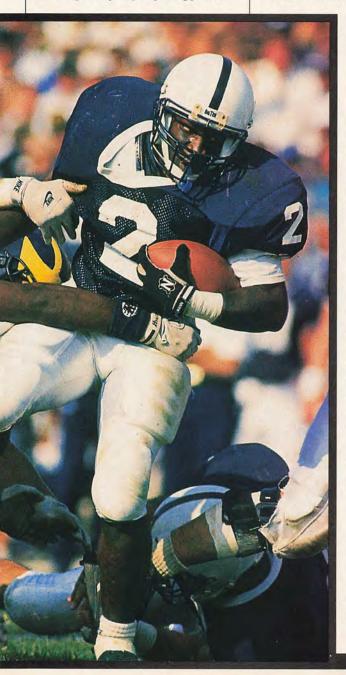
KEY GAMES: Sept. 30 Wisconsin Oct. 7 Ohio State Nov. 18 Michigan

### PLAYER TO WATCH

t didn't need to happen. The play was over. I was downfield," junior free safety **Kim Herring** says, recalling the moment his sophomore season ended two games too soon. "Basically, it was illegal."

The play—a chop block by a Northwestern receiver near the end of the second quarter of Penn State's 45–17 win over the Wildcats on Nov. 9—resulted in a torn medial collateral ligament and torn medial meniscus in Herring's left knee. What made the illegal block even more of a crime was that it ruined Herring's finest collegiate performance to date. He had thwarted the first two Northwestern drives with an 80-yard fumble return for a touchdown and an interception in Penn State territory.

With eight solo stops against Michigan and a career-high 10 tackles versus Indiana, the 6-foot, 191-pound former tailback had built his reputation more on big hits than on big plays. Now, when he returns this fall with a fully recovered knee, Herring will be a big plus for the Nittany Lions.



loyd Wedderburn walked among a throng of fans streaming east across the Penn State campus to last year's homecoming game against Ohio State. Hoping to blend into the crowd, he made it about halfway to Beaver Stadium before hearing a familiar question.

"Are you a football player?" asked one of the multitude, craning to get an eyeful of the 6'7" 320-pounder.

"No," Wedderburn said, smiling. "No, I'm not."

"Really?"

"Really."

Wedderburn understood people's skepticism, but it was easier leaving them in disbelief than having to explain his situation. The biggest man on campus continued walking but made it only as far as the Natatorium. With Beaver Stadium just over the hill, he turned and headed back to his dorm, knowing that he could not bring himself to sit in the stands and just watch. Wedderburn did not attend the Ohio State game—nor any other last season. So went the freshman year of Penn State's first Prop 48 player.

"I watched every home game on TV in my room," says the 20-year-old Wedderburn. "I would think, Oh, man, I should be in there."

A year earlier, in '93, as a prep All-America defensive tackle at Upper Darby (Pa.) High, Wedderburn had been on every college coach's wish list. But he wanted to stay close to home and attend Penn State, despite his inability to reach the minimum college board score required for a scholarship. A solid B student, Wedderburn knew that his test scores were not indicative of his work in the classroom, something that coach Joe Paterno was aware of as well.

Wedderburn was born and raised in Jamaica, where he stayed with his father, Minard, until he was 12. His mother, Pauline, had spent 3<sup>1</sup>2 years as a nanny in Philadelphia, saving enough money to move the family to Upper Darby just before Floyd's freshman year of high school. By his senior year, Wedderburn had learned many of the fine points of American football but was still catching up on American English.

When Wedderburn enrolled at Penn State as a Prop 48 student, the Wedderburns took care of the bills while says. "We were playing a pickup game, and a jumper came off the front of the rim. He went up with two people and flushed it at 320 pounds."

"I ran out of the gym," says senior tailback Mike Archie. "Nobody's seen him play football yet, but I know one thing: I don't want him tackling me."

Although Wedderburn still has everything to prove on the football field he will begin the season backing up

### FLOYD WEDDERBURN

Paterno's wife, Sue, took care of the verbal skills. Although practices and team meetings are forbidden for Prop 48 students, there is no NCAA rule against English tutorial sessions by the coach's wife. So Sue had several meetings a week with Wedderburn to go over his assignments.

Meanwhile, Paterno downplayed Wedderburn's looming presence on campus, never mentioning his name in press conferences and declining interviews on the subject. Although the defensive line was Paterno's biggest concern this spring, Wedderburn's name never came up outside of coaches' meetings. Even some of Paterno's players were left in the dark about Wedderburn's identity.

"I was kind of shocked that people didn't know who I was," Wedderburn says, "Some of the guys on the team used to look at me like, Man, who's that big guy, and why isn't he playing football?"

Eventually, though, Wedderburn began making a name for himself with his future teammates. He blew them away in the weight room and left them shaking their heads on the basketball court.

"He does things on the basketball court that don't make sense for someone that big," senior defensive back Brian King starting defensive tackles Eric Clair and Brandon Noble—he has already proved himself in the classroom and earned a scholarship.

"Coming in as a Prop 48, I was real nervous," Wedderburn says. "Then I just did my work and got help from the tutors and teachers. Man, I would bug them every day after class. I was told that when I went to college, I'd better use those people. My parents are paying for this."

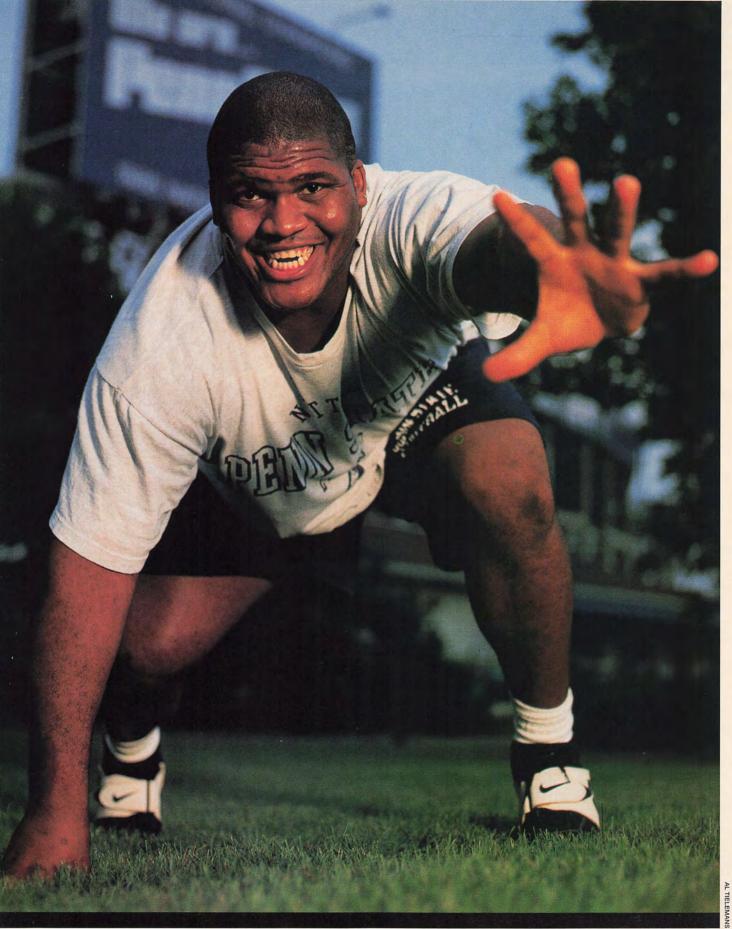
His family certainly got their money's worth. Wedderburn's daily schedule began at 5 a.m. with a workout and did not end until study hall was finished at 10 p.m. No sleeping giant, Wedderburn wouldn't turn in until 1 a.m.

That's when he dreamed of banging helmets in practice with the best offensive line in the country and playing before the home fans in Beaver Stadium. "Deep down, I know I'm ready. I just want to hit somebody," says Wedderburn, who will practice for the first time in August. "I'm not going to brag, but if I go one-on-one with somebody from our offensive line, I don't think it's going to be easy for them to push me around."

But until this fall, the question will remain: Floyd, are you a football player?

—J.B. Morris

Wedderburn, just a big man on campus last year, will finally get to throw his weight around in Beaver Stadium.



### тор 25

### Ecolorado

The question was rhetorical and the answer obvious. Still, the words seemed to lodge in Koy Detmer's throat and stick there for several seconds. "How long have I been here?" he repeated. "This will be my fourth year." He smiled, the taut grin of a gentleman quarterback who, like his Heisman Trophy–winning brother, Ty, is more comfortable with anonymity than with fame. He shook his head and kicked at the ground with his rubber cleats. "Four years. Hard to believe."

Better yet, believe this: There are few programs anywhere that enter the season under more scrutiny than Colorado's. The Buffaloes are replacing a coach, Bill McCartney, who resigned so abruptly that his players still haven't recovered. "It was a shock," says junior free safety Steve Rosga. "Coach Mac was like a dad." The new head man is 34-year-old Rick Neuheisel (page 176), who was elevated after one year as a Colorado assistant and became the second-youngest Division I-A coach in the country. Junior tailback Rashaan Salaam, who gained more than 2,000 yards last season as Colorado's first Heisman Trophy winner, left early for the NFL. In all, 10 starters were lost from a team that was beaten only by national champ Nebraska and finished ranked third.

Yet there is the presumption that Colorado remains talented enough to contend for a Big Eight title and assume its customary Top 15 spot. Much of the pressure in fulfilling these expectations falls on Neuheisel, who has a reputation for offensive genius and who will be employing a new, attacking defense. But Colorado is also Detmer's team. "I believe he's ready for this," says Detmer's father, Sonny, a high school coach in Mission, Texas. If Detmer is not, we'll hear McCartney's name invoked before Halloween.

Detmer has been sitting for most of

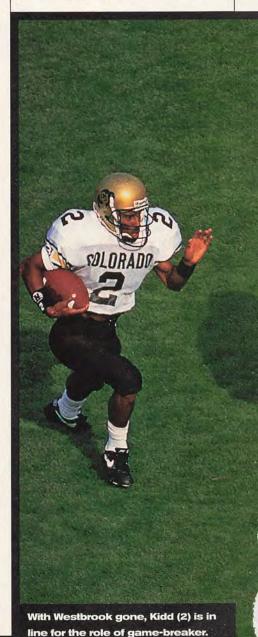
three full seasons. As a true freshman in 1992, he started two games when Kordell Stewart was injured. Detmer was redshirted in '93 and was mopped up last fall. His patience has been tested, which has become something of a Detmer family tradition. Ty, who won the Heisman in '90 as a junior at Brigham Young, has spent three years as the third-string quarterback with the Green Bay Packers, awaiting his chance.

"I believe Ty would like to get some work in too," says Koy. "I know I'm prepared to play. All I ever counted on here was getting two years as the starter, but these last two years I've been sitting around way too much." This is not to say that the time has been wasted. Koy has much in common with Ty. Both arrived in college as virtual floppy disks of offensive knowledge, courtesy of their dad's hightech passing game (Koy, who played for Sonny at Mission High, is the leading passer in Texas high school history; Ty, who played for Sonny at San Antonio SW, is No. 3), and both are soft-spoken and quietly tough. But while Ty played his last two years at BYU as a fragile 6-foot 170-pounder, Koy is a sturdy 6'1", 180. "Koy has had to occupy himself while he waited," says his father. "He's developed some great work habits."

Moreover, Koy and Neuheisel have a bond of sorts. When McCartney hired Neuheisel in the winter of 1994 to coach quarterbacks and wide receivers, the two shook hands on a three-year arrangement. "The deal was that I would be here to coach Kordell and Koy," says Neuheisel. He and Koy have already spent more than a year together, watching tape and dissecting defenses. "He's fun, and he's a perfectionist," says Detmer of his coach. "You have to constantly remind yourself that he's the

head man." It's unlikely that Detmer has to remind himself that at UCLA, Neuheisel helped Troy Aikman become the No. 1 overall pick in the '89 NFL draft or that Stewart went from an erratic performer to a second-round selection last spring.

And it's true that Detmer will not be alone. Three starters return on the offensive line, anchored by senior center Bryan Stoltenberg, an All-America candidate. Even though wideout Michael Westbrook was lost, juniors Rae Carruth and James Kidd are both experienced. On defense, new coordinator A.J. Christoff has installed an aggressive 4–3 set, which



should turn 6'4", 235-pound junior Greg Jones into a terrorizing pass rusher off the corner. One problem with the new scheme: It puts a premium on pass coverage, and Colorado has lost both of its corners: Thorpe Award winner Chris Hudson, who exhausted his eligibility, and senior Dalton Simmons, who suffered a severe knee injury in the Fiesta Bowl and is expected to miss the entire season.

The Buffaloes' schedule is typically tough. They open at Wisconsin and play Colorado State and Texas A & M at home before going to Oklahoma for a Sept. 30 night game that the Sooners will treat as if

it were for the national championship. It is small consolation that Colorado gets Nebraska at home.

It's up to the new coach and his new quarterback to make it all work. "I think Koy can be fantastic," says Neuheisel. "I think that kid has rare ability." It was in the fall of '92, when Detmer was forced into starting against Oklahoma, that his father watched on television and thought, "Last year on this weekend, he was playing a high school game; now he's playing Oklahoma."

Koy wasn't ready then. He'd better be ready now. —TIM LAYDEN

### THE DATA BOX

Head coach: Rick Neuheisel Career coaching record: 0-0 First year at Colorado

1994 RECORD: 11-1

Big Eight record: 6-1 (second)

W Northeast Louisiana 48-13

W Wisconsin 55-17

W at Michigan 27-26

W at Texas 34-31

W at Missouri 38-23

W Oklahoma 45-7

W Kansas State 35-21

L at Nebraska 24-7

W Oklahoma State 17-3

W at Kansas 51-26

W Iowa State 41-20

W Notre Dame 41-24 (Fiesta Bowl)

Final '94 ranking: 3 AP, 3 CNN/USA Today

Lettermen lost: 20 Lettermen returning: 37 Returning starters, offense: 5 Returning starters, defense: 7

KEY GAMES: Sept. 23 Texas A&M Sept. 30 at Oklahoma Oct. 28 Nebraska

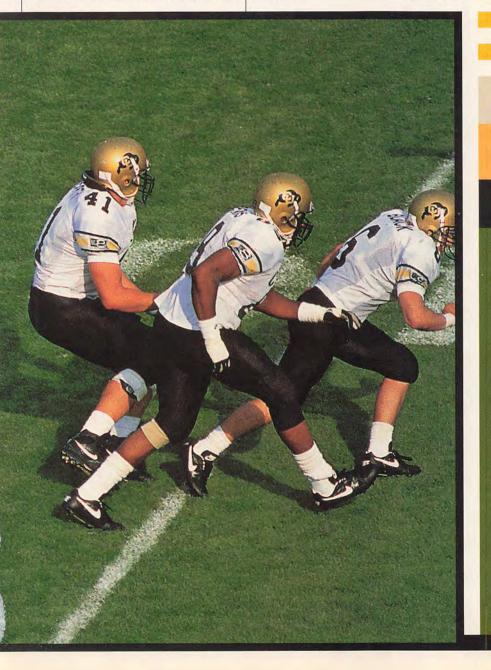
### PLAYER TO WATCH

t takes faith to be able to wait four years before starting your first college football game. But Colorado senior defensive end **Daryl Price** of Beaumont, Texas, knows about that: Price is an ordained minister who preaches at Boulder Second Baptist Church. He is also first on the depth chart at his position, pass-rush specialist in Colorado's new 4–3 alignment.

The fact that Price is a key player is remarkable. As a senior at Beaumont Central High School in 1991, he tore three of the four ligaments in his left knee when he hit a hurdle during a track meet. Last year he had arthroscopic knee surgery, after which he was limited to working on special teams and backing up at outside linebacker.

But Colorado's change in its defensive alignment has afforded Price a chance for significant playing time. He added 20 pounds last winter, pushing his weight to 260, and made himself a viable candidate for the line. Then he won the job.

Think of it as a small miracle.



### E Tennessee

If the schedule is to be taken as an omen, this could be a strange year at Tennessee. The traditional third-Saturday-in-October battle against Alabama, a staple every year except one since 1928, will take place on the second Saturday of October this season, a shift only slightly less jarring in Knoxville than if Thanksgiving were moved to a Wednesday.

With this in mind, maybe it isn't all that bizarre to predict that 1995 will be the year Tennessee's oft-maligned defense finally equals its offense as the team's calling card.

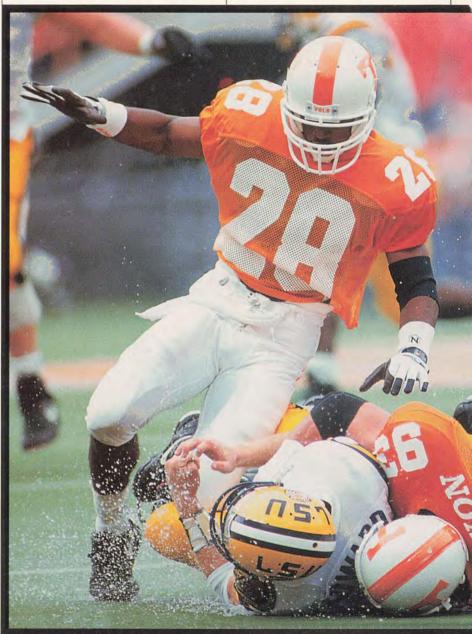
Then again, that might not be the best phrase to use these days around campus, where it was discovered this spring that 17,000 phone calls were charged over a two-year period to a university employee's stolen access code. Twenty-nine of the 56 guilty students identified so far are football players.

Punishments have varied. The Volunteers would have 10 returning starters on defense, but senior Jason Parker, the team's best defensive back, and junior Leland Taylor, a starting tackle, have been suspended for the season because of their phone follies. Junior middle linebacker Tyrone Hines, junior fullback Chester Ford, junior cornerback James Smith and sophomore reserve receiver Andy McCullough have been suspended from the opener.

As if those problems weren't enough, starting senior defensive tackle Shane Burton has been on probation after headbutting a window during a drunken spree at a bar in the spring. "I just hope he can do the same thing to Alabama," said Tom West, owner of the Last Lap, the bar where the incident took place. Burton is expected to play this fall, though, after completing a counseling program—and taking some aspirin.

The defensive players who do make it to the field will be under the command of new coordinator John Chavis, formerly the Vols' linebackers coach. Chavis is known as an excitable fellow who tends to inspire players. "He's intense," says Raymond Austin, a junior defensive back. "He'll say, 'I'm going to get a drink of water,' and the way he says it makes you want to say, 'I'm going to go get a drink of water with you, Coach.'"

Chavis can lead the players to water, but can he make them think—and perform—like a unit that's worthy of recognition? Fans clamored for a high-profile replacement when former defensive coordinator Larry Marmie left for UCLA, but coach Phillip Fulmer promoted Chavis, who has been part of

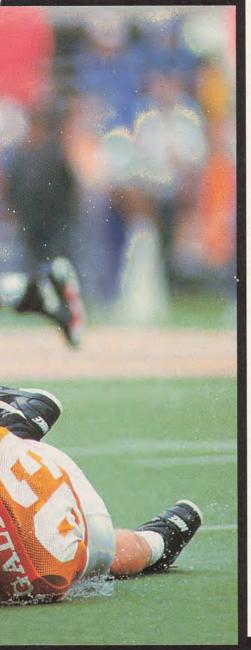


The Vols' Austin (28) and Galyon (93) can put the squeeze on the opposition.

the coaching staff since 1989. "I would like to think he'll stamp his personality on the defense," Fulmer says, "and his personality is very aggressive."

Spring drills brought signs that a transformation is occurring. "The offense noticed it," junior receiver Joey Kent says. "We'd watch film and get mad at the way they were beating up on us in practice. That made the offense step up, and that's going to make the whole team better."

All of which is key for a program with an offense that's traditionally outstanding and a defense that's traditionally chasing



opponents as they head toward the end zone. This year's lineup is filled with guys like Austin, who is talented—and experienced, after being thrown into the Southeastern Conference mosh pit as a freshman. The Volunteers have starter-quality depth at many positions, and with Hines, senior Scott Galyon and either senior Jesse Sanders or senior George Kidd, they'll have the best linebacking trio at Tennessee in years.

But the defense wouldn't be this year's big story if sophomore Peyton Manning hadn't been anointed the starting quarterback earlier than expected. This fall was to have been the debut of either Manning or classmate Branndon Stewart after they'd spent their freshman year practicing and backing up senior Jerry Colquitt. However, Colquitt suffered a season-ending knee injury in the first game of 1994, and by the fifth, Manning was starting. He and Stewart split time the rest of the season, but Manning was named SEC Freshman of the Year and Stewart transferred to Texas A&M.

This season Manning is bigger, stronger and better versed in the Vols' game plan. He can count on a cadre of receivers—Kent and senior Nilo Silvan, plus talented sophomores Marcus Nash, Maurice Staley, Greg Kyler and McCullough—and the usual fleet of talented Tennessee tailbacks. Not only will Manning have plenty of options, but he'll also probably have lots of time to explore them. Four of the five starting offensive linemen are back for their third year as regulars.

The Vols will need that talent because the schedule is tough. The biggest hurdles on the calendar will be Sept. 16, when the Vols travel to Florida Field to face the Gators, and Oct. 14, the second Saturday of the month, when they take on the Tide at Legion Field. Tennessee last won in Gainesville in 1971, and it hasn't won in Birmingham since 1985. In each of those wins, the Tennessee defense should note, the opposition was held to two TDs or less. "We've got guys who have been in big games," senior defensive end Steve White says. "We think this is going to be our year on defense." -DANA GELIN

### THE DATA BOX

Head coach: Phillip Fulmer Career college record: 21-6-1 Fourth year at Tennessee (21-6-1)

### 1994 RECORD: 8-4

SEC record: 5-3 (second in Eastern Division)

- L at UCLA 25-23
- W at Georgia 41-23
- L Florida 31-0
- L at Mississippi State 24-21
- W Washington State 10-9
- W Arkansas 38-21
- L Alabama 17-13
- W at South Carolina 31-22
- W Memphis 24-13
- W Kentucky 52-0
- W at Vanderbilt 65-0
- W Virginia Tech 45-23 (Gator Bowl)

### Final '94 ranking: 22 AP, 18 CNN/USA Today

Lettermen lost: 23 Lettermen returning: 49 Returning starters, offense: 7 Returning starters, defense: 10

### **KEY GAMES:**

Sept. 9 Georgia Sept. 16 at Florida

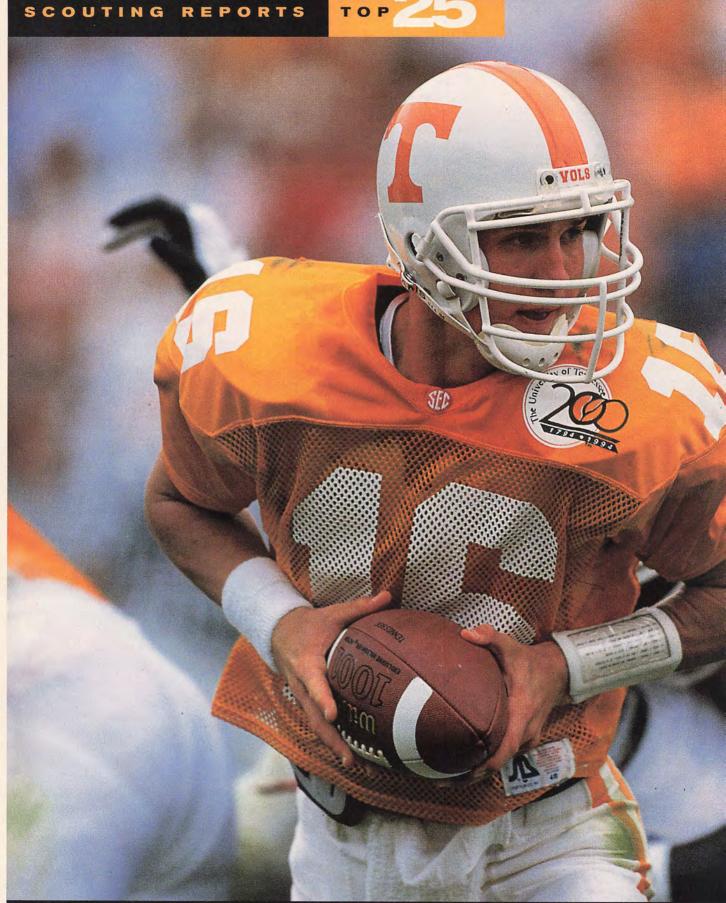
Oct. 14 Alabama (at Birmingham)

### PLAYER TO WATCH

**■** is first stay at Tennessee lasted 12 days. Leonard Little arrived on campus Aug. 10, 1993, and worked his way into a second-string linebacker spot before the football office got word he was academically ineligible and would have to leave. "It was real disappointing," Little says, "but I'm not thinking about that anymore." He re-signed with Tennessee after a two-year stint at Coffeyville (Kans.) Community College, and this time he's ready to build a lasting relationship with the Volunteers. He's slated to start at defensive end, because that's where the Vols need him most, but he could also play outside linebacker.

Little—6'3", 220—has a body-fat percentage of 4.5 and a 40-yard-dash time that's even lower (4.46). The only knock on him is his lack of experience against SEC-caliber teams. "Has he been tested against those folks? Absolutely not," says Tennessee defensive coordinator John Chavis. "But he shows you enough to get you really excited."

тор 25



hen Archie Manning and his son Peyton sat down to dinner earlier this summer at a New Orleans restaurant near their Garden District home, the chef sent out a plate of complimentary appetizers. "You have a fan in the kitchen," the waiter said—and there was no question that he was talking to Archie. How long will it be, though, before father

### PEYTON MANNING

and son have to look at each other and ask, Which one of us is this for?

Archie's fame grew over a legendary career at Ole Miss and two Pro Bowl seasons with the New Orleans Saints. But Peyton, now just 19 and yet to quarterback a full college game, signs autographs in his classes at Tennessee and has already had enough of his dinners interrupted to have learned how to handle the intrusions with grace. "My dad's always been good about that," Peyton says, "and I've watched him."

These days all eyes are on Peyton, a sophomore quarterback for the Volunteers. He has been watched intently since his junior year at Isidore Newman (La.) School, when big-time college coaches battled to sign him for their programs. Peyton knew that any choice other than Ole Miss-where his mother, Olivia, had been a homecoming queen, his brother Cooper was a sophomore and his father was still a favorite son-would create an uproar. On the night before he was to announce his decision, Peyton informed his family he would go to Ole Miss to avoid any problems. Archie, however, told his son to choose for himself, not the family; Peyton picked Tennessee.

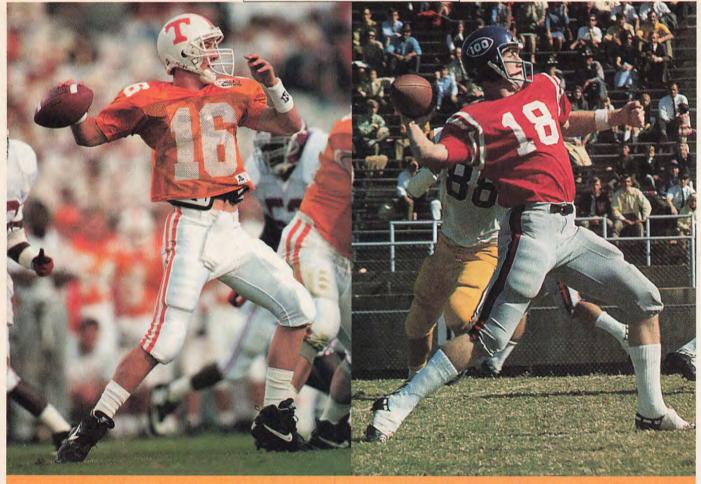
On decision day, Olivia worried about Cooper, who might be walking around the campus when word of his brother's selection got out. But Cooper, who had had to quit the Ole Miss football team the year before because of a spinal cord injury, proudly wore a Tennessee hat to classes that day, daring anyone to make a crack about his brother.

No one did—to Cooper. But letters inundated the Manning house, Archie's office and Peyton's school. Some were distinctly lacking in Southern gentility, but others, even from die-hard fans, congratulated Peyton on his decision and hinted that Tennessee might become their second-favorite team.

Being the son of a famous quarterback brings advantages along with the pressure. When Tennessee lost to Alabama in the seventh game a year ago, Peyton received words of advice from someone who had been in similar situations. "Peyton, that's just how this game works," Archie said as he and Olivia walked their son across the Tennessee campus toward his dorm, Neyland Stadium fading behind them in the warm October dusk. "You've got to get ready for the next game." Peyton did, and that next one-a 31-22 win at South Carolina in which he played most of the game-was the first in which he'd felt comfortable since high school.

When Peyton was battling classmate Branndon Stewart for the quarterback job, Archie told his son to keep quiet, concentrate on practices and be humble. Peyton did all that and received letters from fans complimenting his poise. "What Peyton has learned from his dad, and will continue to learn," Olivia says, "is not really how to play football but how to be a football player."

Archie certainly doesn't want to be Peyton's coach. When Tennessee offensive coordinator David Cutcliffe visited Peyton last summer to get him caught up on the offense, he made sure Archie would be home during the meeting. The three of them sat at the Mannings' dining room table, and Archie promptly fell asleep. "I guess I was just tired," Archie says with a sheepish grin. "But maybe in some indirect way I was saying, 'You're his coach, I'm his daddy. I don't want to know the ins and outs of the Tennessee offense." To this day Archie says he still can't name a single Tennessee play.



Peyton (left) hopes to mirror the gridiron success his father, Archie, had at Ole Miss more than two decades ago.

Peyton, on the other hand, has had to digest more than anyone would have expected, partly by necessity. When senior quarterback Jerry Colquitt's college career ended with a knee injury 31/2 minutes into Tennessee's openinggame loss to UCLA last season, Manning and Stewart were unexpectedly thrown into the action, although Todd Helton, the second-string quarterback, played most of the way. Then Helton, the eighth pick in the 1995 Major League Baseball draft, hurt his knee in the fourth game, and all of a sudden, the two freshmen were vying for the job. Manning started the rest of the games, but Stewart played in every one. "I wanted to be fair to both of them," coach Phillip Fulmer says, "but most of all fair to our football team, to give our team the best chance to win."

The Vols went 8–4 for the season, including a 45–23 win in the Gator Bowl. After that game Fulmer told Manning and Stewart that the quarterback job would be

open in spring practice. But the day spring-semester classes started, Stewart announced he was transferring to Texas A & M.

So Manning, who went 89 for 144 with 11 touchdowns and six interceptions last season, is the starter. Boy, is he. The second- and third-string quarterbacks on Tennessee's roster are freshmen. But if you're going to hand a youngster the quarterback job at a powerful football program like Tennessee's, it would be hard to pick a better one than Manning.

"He's the first one to meetings, and he's the last one off the field," Fulmer says. 
"He's got the physical tools to get the ball where we want it thrown. He can handle the running game. He's got the gift of leadership." But beneath the accolades and expectations is a teenager who has been in Knoxville just one year. Says Fulmer, "Everybody expects too much of Peyton."

So far he has delivered, and not just on

the field. Manning finished his first school year with a 3.57 grade point average and has gone to great lengths to mingle with other students. When he gets away from school, it's to visit his family or his girlfriend, Ashley Thompson, a junior at the University of Virginia. "I just want people to think I'm a good guy," Peyton says. "All I want to be is a normal person who happens to play quarterback."

When it comes to being a good person as well as a good quarterback, the man he patterns himself after is his father. "He's the guy I look up to," Peyton says. "My dad's my idol."

Olivia remembers Cooper and Peyton requesting football uniforms every Christmas when they were little. "Cooper always wanted the uniforms of the glamorous players," Olivia says. "Peyton always wanted to be his dad."

Nothing has changed, except these days there are lots of people who want Peyton to be like his dad. —Dana Gelin

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# CNotre Dame

From top-ranked to rank and file to just plain rank. That is what has become of Notre Dame football since David Gordon's faith-rattling 41-yard field goal with five seconds remaining lifted Boston College to a 41–39 defeat of the Fighting Irish on Nov. 20, 1993.

A week earlier second-ranked Notre Dame had toppled Florida State in a No. 1 versus No. 2 showdown to claim the top spot in the country. But then came the heartbreak at South Bend, and since that loss the Irish have won just seven of their 13 games. In '94 they were 6-5-1 and were outscored 103-69 in the fourth quarter. Notre Dame also failed to defeat a single ranked opponent for the first time since 1981. Ultimately, in the wake of a 41-24 Fiesta Bowl abasement at the hands of Colorado in which the Irish raised diffidence to a higher plane, they found themselves deservedly-and for the first time in eight years—unranked at season's end.

"Last year was the most frustrating year I have ever had as a football coach," says Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz. "We just never got the problem solved."

The Irish were a Rubik's Cube of problems in '94, with no positions more troubled than those on the offensive line, where there were nine lineup combinations. "You could never get in a rhythm because you just never knew who was going to be next to you," says senior right tackle–right guard–left tackle–left guard Jeremy Akers.

Notre Dame's ground attack, the heart of any Holtz offense, averaged 216 yards per game, the lowest total since 1986, his first season in South Bend. And junior quarterback Ron Powlus, who threw a team-record 19 touchdown passes, was sacked 25 times. TV viewers who tuned in to Notre Dame home games could not

recall NBC's televising such dubious efforts to block since Charo appeared on *Hollywood Squares*.

What happened? "That's the million-

dollar question," says senior center Dusty Zeigler, the only offensive lineman to start all 12 games, the first six at left guard. "We were under the microscope, and it got confusing for everyone. Then people just weren't having any fun, and we lost confidence."

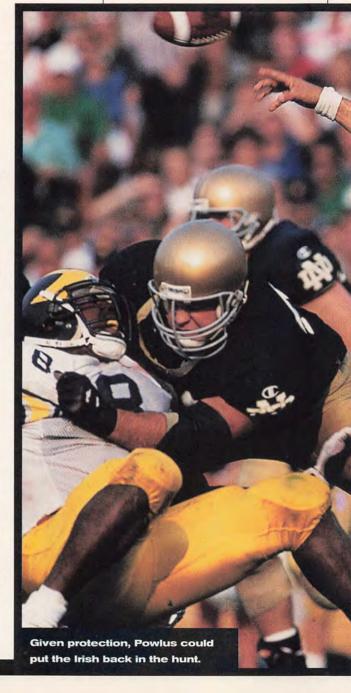
That crisis in confidence worries Holtz, who hasn't helped alleviate it with recent public comments. Despite signing the nation's top recruiting class two of the last three years, Holtz said in March, "We aren't going to be a particularly talented football team." A month later Holtz asked Dr. Mick Franco, a psychologist in the university counseling center, to conduct a leadership seminar for 16 players, mostly seniors.

"The word *leader* implies a responsibility, not an honor," says Franco. "Coach Holtz wanted me to make them aware of that,

and during spring practice we started seeing leaders emerge."

That didn't help in the first half of the spring game, in which the second unit played the starters to a 0–0 tie. At halftime Holtz had the scorekeeper award the scrubs three touchdowns, hoping to get the first team to play desperate football.

So we know that Holtz can put points on the scoreboard. But what about his offense? Number 1 wideout Derrick Mayes—who last year caught as many



passes (47) as receivers two through four—returns, as does the team's leading rusher, Randy Kinder (5.9 yards per carry). Holtz appears intent on not mixing the ingredients of his offensive line into an Irish stew again. And when evaluating the 6'2", 225-pound Powlus, who has shed 10 pounds since the Fiesta Bowl, Holtz points to the 19–9 touchdown-to-interception ratio and says, "If you really look objectively at what he did last year, you would have to be impressed."

Dr. Franco asserts that to be a great

leader one must be humble, something the Irish defenders must be after their performance the last couple of years. In fact, if there's no improvement in this area, critics might begin to suggest that the ND on the Irish jerseys stands for No Defense.

Humble is not a word usually associated with Holtz, who comes into this season one victory shy of 200 for his career. And according to Franco, the word shy doesn't fit Holtz either. "Coach Holtz has rededicated himself to being

the best leader he can be," he says, "and in football you need a General Patton type at the top."

Which may explain why Holtz will soon break rank with tradition. For the first time. Notre Dame enters fall practice without any elected team captains. The team will also work out at a military academy. "We need these guys to come together," says Holtz of the intended biyouac 42 miles south of the campus, at Culver Military Academy. If you're scoring at home, Culver is not one of the three military academies on the soft Notre Dame schedule this fall.

No captains. A secluded training post. The Irish are trying to close ranks. They may not return to Tempe for the national title game, but they will regain respect. And if the Irish should invade Sun Devil Stadium on Jan. 2? Patton always did well in the desert.

—JOHN WALTERS

### THE DATA BOX

Head coach: Lou Holtz Career college record: 199-89-7 10th year at Notre Dame (83-24-2)

### 1994 RECORD: 6-5-1

W at Northwestern 42-15

L Michigan 26-24

W at Michigan State 21-20

W Purdue 39-21

W Stanford 34-15

L at Boston College 30-11

L BYU 21-14

W Navy 58-21

L at Florida State 23-16

W Air Force 42-30

T at USC 17-17

L Colorado 41-24 (Fiesta Bowl)

### Final '94 ranking: unranked

Lettermen lost: 16 Lettermen returning: 41 Returning starters, offense: 8 Returning starters, defense: 4

### **KEY GAMES:**

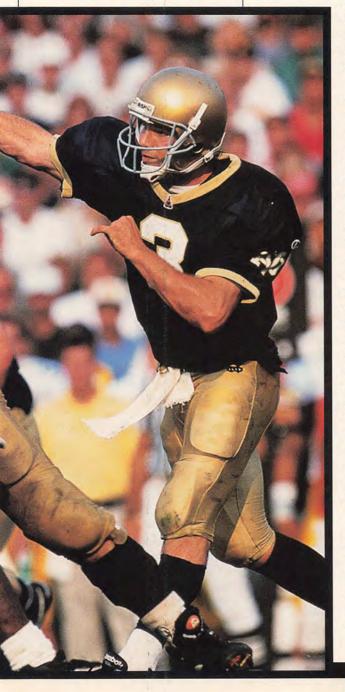
Oct. 7 at Washington Oct. 21 USC Oct. 28 Boston College

### PLAYER TO WATCH

ollowing Notre Dame's 1994 season opener, a 42–15 win over Northwestern in which the Irish surrendered 350 yards and were outrushed 166–161, coach Lou Holtz told his players, "You are never going to be a great football team until you are outstanding on defense. And being outstanding on defense starts with the ability to stop the run."

Enter noseguard **Paul Grasmanis**. That game was the last one at Notre Dame that the 6'2" 275-pounder did not start. In the next game, against Michigan, he had a team-high nine tackles and a sack. In fact, his 49-tackle total last season is tops among Notre Dame's returning front seven.

The Irish, who allowed an average of 333 yards per game in '94, haven't finished higher than 20th overall in total defense since 1989. Things don't figure to get too much better this season, because Notre Dame will start seven new defenders. But with Grasmanis in the lineup, one thing is certain—there won't be woes at the nose.



# TAlabama

The submarine film *Crimson Tide* and its gridiron namesake may have some similarities, but lest anyone confuse Bear Bryant with the Jack Russell terrier that bears his name in the movie, here's a list of discrepancies between the USS *Alabama* and the football team Alabama:

• First-strike capability: The film's true star, a Trident nuclear submarine, had it.

is the offensive line, where the center may be a 305-pound walk-on named Michael (Bubba) Ray. ("If you live here and you weigh three bills, your name is Bubba," says defensive tackle Shannon Brown.)

"I don't want to fuss," says Burgdorf, "but you see our defensive line and you think, I want some of those guys on my side of the ball." Which brings us to ...

• The Gene factor: Gene Hackman's

sub commander character in the movie liked to win battles with offense.

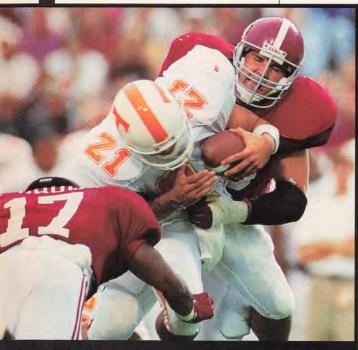
And coach Gene Stallings? Before he chose Ray as the center to replace John Causey (torn knee ligaments) in spring practice, he told offensive line coach Jim Fuller to pick anyone he wanted from the defensive line—excluding only the top 10 defensive linemen.

Lest you think Stallings plucked that figure from a patch of kudzu, listen to the words of West Virginia head coach Don Nehlen. After

observing a few of the Tide's spring practice sessions in April, Nehlen said that the Tide had "10 defensive linemen and six linebackers who could start anywhere."

"We're deep," defensive coordinator "Brother" Bill Oliver concurs. "So there's no excuse for anyone not to go hard on every play. This ought to be a great group of guys."

Unlike the top-ranked defense of 1992, seven of whom are now in the NFL, this defense boasts no stars—yet.



Brown (right) is a big player in a deep Tide defense.

The football team, on the other hand, had to come from behind in eight of its 12 victories in 1994.

"That'll change this year," promises senior quarterback Brian Burgdorf, who is charged with replacing the dependable Jay Barker. "We're going to be more wide open. Four-receiver sets, shotgun formation. Stuff I like."

Though the Tide has lost Barker and All-SEC tailback Sherman Williams to graduation, both positions are brimming with talent. Of more immediate concern But along Interstate 65 you hear whispers that this unit is the best Oliver has produced since then. If so, the 6'5", 266-pound Brown and linebackers Ralph Staten and John Walters have the best chance of becoming the Tide's—not just the defense's—marquee names.

"That's just the Alabama way of winning," says offensive coordinator Homer Smith of Stallings's defensive emphasis. "We want a physical approach to the game, and our defense takes care of that."

•The rankings: Whereas the film found itself No. 1 at the box office after its opening weekend in May, the football team was unable to climb above the No. 3 spot in the polls last season despite winning its first 11 games.

"Alabama always has a tough time getting recognition," says Brown, whose senior class, should it repeat last year's 12–1 mark, will exit as the Tide's winningest ever. "Not that it doesn't make us mad."

"Rankings?" says Burgdorf. "We can't worry about where we're ranked. All we can do is go out and win."

—JOHN WALTERS

### THE DATA BOX

Head coach: Gene Stallings Career college record: 79-55-2 Sixth year at Alabama (52-10-1)

### 1994 RECORD: 12-1

SEC record: 8-0 (first in Western Division)

W Tennessee-Chattanooga 42-13

W Vanderbilt 17-7

W at Arkansas 13-6

W Tulane 20-10

W Georgia 29-28

W Southern Mississippi 14-6

W at Tennessee 17-13

W Mississippi 21-10

W at LSU 35-17

W at Mississippi State 29-25

W Aubum 21-14

L Florida 24-23 (SEC championship)

W Ohio State 24-17 (Citrus Bowl)

Final '94 Ranking: 5 AP, 4 CNN/USA Today

Lettermen lost: 26 Lettermen returning: 55 Returning starters, offense: 6 Returning starters, defense: 5

KEY GAMES: Sept. 30 at Georgia Oct. 14 Tennessee Nov. 18 at Auburn

# 120klahoma

Oklahoma and Howard
Schnellenberger each found anonymity
these last few years. The Sooners, under
coach Gary Gibbs and in the wake of
Barry Switzer's inglorious departure in
1989, drifted into mediocrity and went
1-10-1 against Nebraska and Colorado.
Schnellenberger tried to build a power
in his hometown of Louisville and over
10 years lost more games than he won.

Now they seek redemption together, the proud program and its new coach. Think of this as a salvage operation—at stake are two reputations, and on trial is the popular theory that dead dynasties like Oklahoma's cannot rise and reclaim their cachet.

"It's similar here to Alabama," says Schnellenberger, who was an assistant under Bear Bryant from 1961 to '65 and an admirer of Bryant's methods and results. "You can't understand the depth of it for the people of this state until you get here, and you can't totally comprehend it unless you're the coach."

When Schnellenberger arrived in Norman last winter, he found a program that was far richer in talent than the one he had left in Louisville, and richer even than the one he had taken over at Miami in 1979 and coached to a national title in 1983. He also found a team that lacked both confidence and conditioning, evinced by a 31–6 Copper Bowl loss to BYU.

However, Oklahoma's talent never ebbed badly, and its facilities (read: recruiting tools) remain among the best in the country. "With what they have here, sometimes I feel like I'm stealing half my paycheck," says offensive coordinator Gary Nord, who came with Schnellenberger to Oklahoma from Louisville.

The Sooners have 19 starters returning, as well as 21 other players who have started at least one game, an embarrassment of experience. The best

of them are in the two backfields: junior running backs Jerald (Thunder) Moore and James (Lightning) Allen and senior cornerbacks Darrius Johnson and Larry Bush. At issue is quarterback, where the new staff must decide among returning starter Garrick McGee, three top recruits and a wiry redshirt freshman, Eric Moore, who became a filmwatching fixture in the football offices over the winter and spring.

"Moore is what I call highly motivated," says Schnellenberger. Also highly opportunistic. When McGee, the Big Eight Newcomer of the Year, missed the Copper Bowl with viral hepatitis and didn't participate in any contact during the spring, Moore leaped into the void.

The Sooner talent is sufficient, and the schedule not forbidding, but the fulcrum is Schnellenberger, who drilled the Sooners relentlessly in the spring.

"We're not running an experiment here," he says of his method. "If it Head coach: Howard Schnellenberger Career college record: 95-71-2 First year at Oklahoma

### 1994 RECORD: 6-6

Big Eight record: 4-3 (fourth)

W at Syracuse 30-29

L at Texas A&M 36-14

W Texas Tech 17-11

W Iowa State 34-6

L Texas (at Dallas) 17-10

L at Colorado 45-7

W at Kansas 20-17

L Kansas State 37-20

W Missouri 30-13

W at Oklahoma State 33-14

L Nebraska 13-3

L BYU 31-6 (Copper Bowl)

Final '94 ranking: unranked

Lettermen lost: 5 Lettermen returning: 54 Returning starters, offense: 9 Returning starters, defense: 10

KEY GAMES: Sept. 30 Colorado Oct. 14 Texas (at Dallas) Nov. 24 at Nebraska

doesn't work here, it's not my fault. I know it's worked before."

If it doesn't work here, as
Schnellenberger well knows, that
explanation won't be good enough for
Sooner fans.

—TIM LAYDEN



Jerald Moore will help the Sooners thunder into the Schnellenberger era.

Liami Hurricanes, role models. It

doesn't exactly roll off the tongue, does it? But if new coach Butch Davis has his way, Miami's image will soon change from haven for loud-mouthed thugs to bastion of virtue and discipline. "I want people to look at us as leaders, as people who have a tremendous amount of character and pride," says Davis. But consider what Davis, a 15-year

But things are already changing in Coral Gables. Players have been seen hustling to the huddle and doing their stretching exercises in focused silence. "There used to be laughing, goofing around," says punter Mike Crissy. "Not anymore."

After an 18-yard TD run in a spring scrimmage, wide receiver Trent Jones quietly laid the ball on the ground and jogged promptly to the sideline, as if he

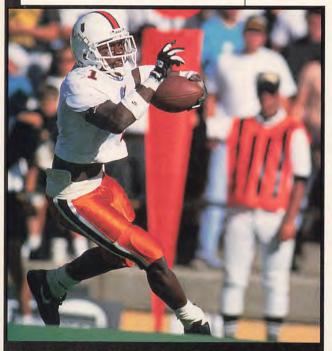
> played for Penn State or something. After another score, fullback Kevin Brinkworth declined to rip off his helmet and prance.

Just as excessive celebration will not be tolerated, brushes with the law will no longer be brushed off. Already Davis has suspended tight end Syii Tucker indefinitely for marijuana use and linebacker James Burgess for two games after he was arrested for assaulting a police officer during a danceclub altercation.

Of course, there are some image problems that just won't go away, like rapper

Luther Campbell, the Hurricane booster who threatened to "tell all" to the NCAA if senior Ryan Collins was not named the starting quarterback. Though Collins won't remind anyone of Bernie Kosar or even Frank Costa, he does have the job, presumably on the basis of his experience and performance.

Collins may not be asked to throw as often as his predecessors did. Davis has installed a two-back offense, which is good news for slashing junior tailback Danyell Ferguson, who will get to run



Ferguson will lead a tamer group of Hurricanes in '95.

assistant under Jimmy Johnson for Oklahoma State, Miami and the Dallas Cowboys, has inherited from Dennis Erickson: In addition to potential NCAA sanctions for Pell Grant fraud, pay-forplay and drug-testing improprieties, Davis has taken on a team whose lack of social discipline is matched only by its lack of physical conditioning. "We have some players who are enormously fat," Davis told the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel this spring. "And we've got a lot of other guys who are just flat out-of-shape."

behind a fullback—senior Derrick Harris—for the first time in his Hurricane career. The offensive line, anchored once again by junior center K.C. Jones, should be quicker than last year's with the additions of junior J Ina at right tackle and sophomore Kerlin Blais at left.

When he does need to go downfield, Collins will have at his disposal such fine receivers as Trent Jones, Jammi German and Yatil Green, a 6'3" 195-pounder with 4.3 speed. Green welcomes questions about his first name. "It means excellence," he says. In what language would that be, Yatil? "My language," he says. "I made it up."

Last year's top-rated defense lost six starters, including tackles Warren Sapp and Pat Riley, both NFL draftees. Big East Rookie of the Year Kennard Lang is back at defensive end, but junior corner Carlos Jones is the only returning starter in the secondary.

Chances are that in this year of flux the Hurricanes won't be contending for much beyond the Big East crown. All other titles—whether Baddest on the Block, Citizens of the Year or National Champs will land elsewhere. —Kelli Anderson

### THE DATA BOX

**Head coach: Butch Davis** Career college record: 0-0 First year at Miami

1994 RECORD: 10-2

Big East record: 7-0 (first)

W Georgia Southern 56-0

W at Arizona State 47-10

L Washington 38-20

W at Rutgers 24-3

W Florida State 34-20

W at West Virginia 38-6

W Virginia Tech 24-3

W at Syracuse 27-6

W Pittsburgh 17-12

W at Temple 38-14

W Boston College 23-7

Nebraska 24-17 (Orange Bowl)

Final '94 ranking: 6 AP, 6 CNN/USA Today

Lettermen lost: 20 Lettermen returning: 48 Returning starters, offense: 5 Returning starters, defense: 5

KEY GAMES: Sept. 2 at UCLA Oct. 7 at Florida State Nov. 11 at Boston College 14Michigan

This spring Ann Arbor was buzzing with questions about chances, like the second one former coach Gary Moeller never got and the big one his successor, friend and former assistant, Lloyd Carr, is getting in his stead. Now, with autumn approaching, the big question is this: After last season's third-place finish in the Big Ten and this spring's coaching cataclysm, what chance does Michigan have of making it to the Rose Bowl?

It's difficult to gauge what effect Moeller's resignation, brought on by his baffling drunken confrontation with police on April 28, will have on the season. Moeller was well-liked by the players, many of whom have expressed shock and disappointment at his sudden departure. The appointment of Carr as a stand-in made, by all accounts, the best of a bad situation. "If anything good could have come out of this, this is it," says offensive guard Joe Marinaro of Carr's promotion. "But the team is still going to be Moeller's team. So we'll want to do good for him."

Who better to lead the Wolverines on their sentimental mission than the 51-year-old Carr, a man who, in looks and speech, could have been Jimmy Stewart's double on any Frank Capra set? Like Moeller, Carr bleeds maize and blue, but with an important difference. Unlike his stoic predecessor, Carr vents his feelings publicly.

As satisfied as the team seems to be with its new coach, public reaction to Carr's appointment has been subdued. All that fans seem to know about him is that he is a 15-year Michigan assistant who was most recently coordinator of a defense that gave up more than 20 points in all but three contests last year.

The fans will forgive him, though, if he takes the Wolverines to Pasadena on Jan. 1. But their failure to get to the Rose Bowl for the last two years may have given them just the nasty edge they've been missing of late. "The last two 8–4 teams were not typical Michigan teams," says senior defensive tackle Jason Horn. "This year we'll be back to playing our usual tough style."

Toughness will be essential for the offensive line, which will have to protect a quarterback who has never taken a snap in a college game. Though inexperienced, redshirt freshman Scott Driesbach shows promise. He should have plenty of time to connect with three superb receivers, senior tight end Jay Riemersma and senior wideouts Mercury Hayes and Amani Toomer. The backfield—featuring tailbacks Tshimanga Biakabutuka (following page) and Ed Davis—is also loaded.

If all goes well, Carr may realize a vision he holds dear. In his office is a poem by Grantland Rice that ends:
"... And then I wander the ancient ways to a dream I love the best, when Yale

Head coach: Lloyd Carr Career college record: 0-0 First year at Michigan

### 1994 RECORD: 8-4

Big Ten record: 5-3 (third)

W Boston College 34-26

W at Notre Dame 26-24

L Colorado 27-26

W at lowa 29-14

W Michigan State 40-20

L Penn State 31-24

W at Illinois 19-14

Wisconsin 31-19

W at Purdue 45-23

W Minnesota 38-22

L at Ohio State 22-6

W Colorado State 24-14 (Holiday Bowl)

The state of the s

Final '94 ranking: 12 AP and CNN/USA Today

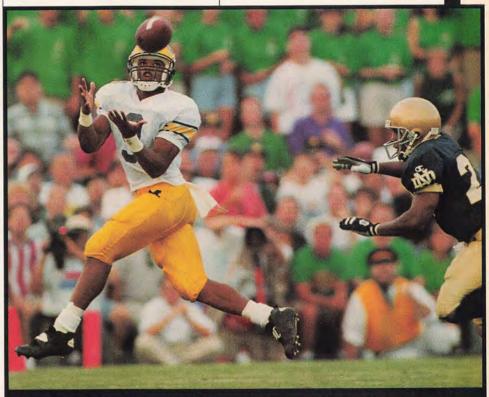
Lettermen lost: 15 Lettermen returning: 49 Returning starters, offense: 8 Returning starters, defense: 7

KEY GAMES: Sept. 16 at Boston College Nov. 18 at Penn State Nov. 25 Ohio State

was King of the conquered East and Michigan ruled the West."

"That's my dream, too," says Carr. Somewhere, Frank Capra is smiling.

-KELLI ANDERSON



With weapons like Hayes, Michigan seeks to leave its coaching woes behind.

hen Michigan tailback Tshimanga Biakabutuka carries the ball in Michigan Stadium, Wolverine fans are twice rewarded. First they get to watch his quicksilver slither through the defensive line. Then-and this is the really good part—they get to hear his name announced over a public address system designed for a crowd of 105,000. Even amplified by a zillion watts, the name sounds like the song of an exotic bird. "Carrying the ball, number 21, Tee-MON-gah Bee-OCK-ah-buh-too-kah!" announcer Howard King proclaims. Typically, the crowd responds as though King had just announced that pizza would be given away in the parking lot after the game.

On the road, Biakabutuka's name is not always treated as elegantly. Last season Notre Dame's press box announcer made the birdcall sound like a duck that was shot in mid-quack. "Bee-YAACK ... for five yards," he said.

A year ago, while laboring behind eventual first-round draft pick Tyrone Wheatley, Biakabutuka had four 100-yard games, scored seven touchdowns and rushed for 783 yards, averaging more than six yards per carry. The 6'1", 205pound junior gets those six-plus yards on two exceptional feet. "When he came to our football camp three years ago," says offensive coordinator Fred Jackson, "we could tell within five minutes that he had very special feet. He makes moves much smaller guys can't make, and he has an uncanny ability to keep moving forward as he cuts. He gets his body back to northsouth as quickly as anyone I've seen."

In other words, the defense might as well try to catch a six-foot glob of mercury. Biakabutuka says he can count on his hands the number of times he has taken a full-body tackle, which bodes well for his longevity in a game he has been

playing only five years. "I just run for daylight," he says. "I like to hit it as quickly as possible."

When a preseason shoulder injury to Wheatley gave him some daylight in the lineup against Boston College last season, Biakabutuka ran for 128 yards and a touchdown. The following week, at Notre Dame, he had another 100 yards and scored Michigan's first TD. Fans were suddenly finding that the nickname Biakabutuka had picked up in high school—Touchdown Tim—had a nice ring to it, too. Of course, many people just call him Tim. "I don't mind, because I know it's easier to pronounce," he says. "But it's not my name."

He's not sure how Tshimanga would translate into English, but he knows Biakabutuka means "born-again" in Tshiluba, the language he spoke as a boy in Kinshasa, Zaire, and still speaks at home in Montreal. After his family emigrated to Canada in 1980, he learned French, which he speaks with his buddies in Quebec. "The hardest part of being in America is living in English day in and day out," says Biakabutuka, who learned the language by watching cartoons such as *Bugs Bunny* and *Transformers*.

Whereas he credits Bugs with his

years ago, when 16-year-old Tshimanga asked his mother, Misenga, if he could play football for his school, Jean-Jacques Rousseau High, she agreed. "She thought I was playing soccer," he says. "She couldn't understand why I came home with a broken wrist and bruises all over my body." When Misenga finally saw one of her son's high school games, she applauded when he got hit and fumbled the football. "She just didn't understand it," says Biakabutuka. "After the Colorado game last year, she called to congratulate me on the win. I said, 'No. Mom, we lost.' She said, 'Oh,' and changed the subject. That helped me deal with the loss, because it reminded me that there are people in the world who don't care about football."

Not many of them live near Michigan Stadium, however. "It amazes me how much the fans love the team here," says Biakabutuka. "It's a shock that grown people admire me and ask for my autograph. What is an autograph? It doesn't mean anything. I am not better than they are just because I play football here."

But even a guy who has spent the bulk of his life oblivious to college football is subject to an occasional lapse in

### TIM BIAKABUTUKA

foundation for English, he credits his parents and 10 siblings with his foundation for life. "My father and all the people around me taught me how to be strong and smart at the same time," says Biakabutuka. "And when I come home, they are just happy to see me. They don't want to hear about football. It helps keep me humble."

The game has never been a hot topic at the Biakabutuka family dinner table. Five

perspective. Remembering the Wolverines' last-second, 26–24 victory over Notre Dame last season on Remy Hamilton's 42-yard field goal, Biakabutuka's eyes shine. "The way it came down to a kick, it was so exciting," he says. "Everybody was jumping around, coaches were hugging players, there was no barrier between us. It was the second-best miracle, after the birth of a baby."

-KELLI ANDERSON



on't be surprised if North Carolina State coach Mike O'Cain incorporates yoga into his team's postgame routine this season. Anything to relax. The Wolfpack has won 16 games under O'Cain over the last two seasons, but the victories have come at a pricenamely, his fingernails. Eight of those wins were fueled by fourth-quarter comebacks. "That says a lot about

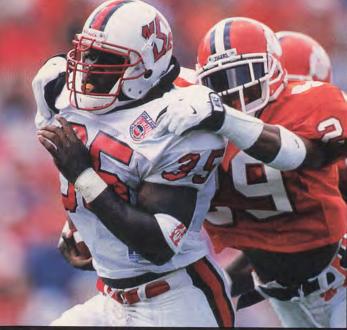
State in the Peach Bowl. The winning touchdown (which came, of course, in the fourth quarter) provided N.C. State with its largest margin of victory since October. In November, Antacid Appreciation Month in Raleigh, the Wolfpack stormed back to beat Maryland 47-45, Duke 24-23 and Virginia 30-27. And in among those heart stoppers, it was stomped by

Florida State 34-3.

N.C. State has finished second to Florida State in the Atlantic Coast Conference race in two of the three seasons since the Seminoles joined the fold. "If they weren't here, we'd have the rings they have," says junior cornerback Ricky Bell.

Stress for the Wolfpack is not limited to autumn. It also hits in the spring, around the time of baseball's Major League draft, as the team holds its collective breath for fear quarterback Terry Harvey will finally

decide to abandon football for a baseball career. A righthanded pitcher who holds N.C. State's career records for strikeouts, wins, innings pitched and games started, Harvey was drafted this past June for the fourth time, the first having been in his senior year at Dacula (Ga.) High. A 17th-round pick this year, he finally signed and spent the summer with the Cleveland Indians' Class A team in Watertown, N.Y. But Harvey will return to Raleigh this fall for his senior year of football and third season as a starter.



Brown (35) knows Wolfpack wins are too close for comfort.

our young men," O'Cain says.

What? That they're trying to give their coach ulcers? That they stink in the first three quarters? O'Cain prefers to consider coming from behind a testament to his team's tenacity and tip-top conditioning. "We're not the kind of team that's going to overpower people," O'Cain says. "We're just not of that caliber."

But they are of a caliber to have ended the last seven seasons playing in bowl games. The finale for 1994 was a 28-24 victory over favored Mississippi

The backfield—Harvey, tailback Tremayne Stephens and fullback Rod Brown-is one of the clusters of returning starters on a team that has bid adieu to half of last year's regulars. As a freshman in '94, Stephens played in only nine games but rushed for more than 100 yards in five of them. Also back on the offensive line are guard Steve Keim and the Redmond brothers, guard Jonathan and center Kenneth; three starters, including Bell, return in the secondary. But that leaves vast territory with few experienced players in sight.

On defense, five of the front seven are gone. Senior tackle Mike Harrison and senior end Jon Rissler are the mainstays. "We have talent there," O'Cain says, "but not a whole lot of experience."

N.C. State opens at home with Division I-AA Marshall, then compensates for that soft spot with a nonconference game at Alabama. Rest assured, if either of those games is close after three quarters, O'Cain won't lose hope. "When the game's on the line, we have a chance," he says. "We don't always win 'em, but we get our share."

-DANA GELIN

### THE DATA BOX

Head coach: Mike O'Cain Career college record: 16-8 Third year at N.C. State (16-8)

### 1994 RECORD: 9-3

ACC record: 6-2 (second)

W Bowling Green 20-15

W at Clemson 29-12

W Western Carolina 38-13

W Georgia Tech 21-13

L at Louisville 35-14

W Wake Forest 34-3

L at North Carolina 31-17

W at Maryland 47-45

W Duke 24-23

L Florida State 34-3

W at Virginia 30-27

W Mississippi State 28-24 (Peach Bowl)

Final '94 rankings: 17 AP, 17 CNN/USA Today

Lettermen lost: 22 Lettermen returning: 43 Returning starters, offense: 7 Returning starters, defense: 5

**KEY GAMES:** Sept. 16 at Florida State Oct. 7 at Alabama Nov. 24 North Carolina

# 15 Washington

Touching up a smudged powerhouse isn't easy, but you have to start somewhere: Washington has transformed its former panting-dog logo into a closed-mouth canine that is, according to school literature, more "regal and majestic." The gridiron Huskies are counting on a similar refurbishing.

Pac-10 sanctions, levied against Washington after boosters gave improper loans and summer jobs to players, precluded bowl appearances and limited scholarships the past two seasons. But from 1990 to '92, the Huskies went to three straight Rose Bowls, and many of the team's old-timers are eager to return to what they call their home away from home: Pasadena. "We are banless," says senior defensive tackle Stephen Hoffmann, coining a word for the occasion, "and that's a big-time thrill for this team."

Leading the way will be senior quarterback Damon Huard. With tailback Napoleon Kaufman gone to the NFL, coach Jim Lambright says, "This is Damon's team, and I fully expect him to dominate." Look for the Huskies to spread the field, sometimes with four receivers, and allow Huard to fire out of the shotgun. At 6'4" and 215 pounds, Huard has a strong arm and a soft touch, but in the past he felt out of sync in the Huskies' run-oriented offense. Now he is strutting around with the bravado of an Old West gunslinger. "We're going to air it out this year, and I can't wait for the challenge," he says.

Senior tight end Ernie Conwell will be the focus of Washington's passing attack. A 6'3", 240-pound freak of nature, Conwell runs a 4.54 40, bench-presses a team-high 500 pounds and has supple hands and nimble feet. In a word? "Scary," says Huard. "Stud," says Hoffmann.

The Husky logo isn't the only thing that has been streamlined for this

season. Lambright has scrapped many of the defense's complex sets and gone to a meat-and-potatoes system that allows the players to think less and react more. "What you're going to see is guys hustling all over the field and flying to the ball as a unit," says senior Reggie Reser, one of the Pac-10's best cornerbacks. "Just like all those great Washington defenses of the past."

Lambright can count on a couple of body-rocking playmakers up the middle in all-conference junior free safety
Lawyer Milloy (page 98) and junior inside linebacker Ink Aleaga. One of the most intriguing Huskies is outside 'backer Ikaika Malloe, a former walk-on who, at 5'11", 195 pounds, is one of the Huskies' hardest hitters. Tough to figure? "Ikaika's secret is that he has the hardest head on the team," Hoffmann says.

As Washington readies for its first run at Pasadena since '92, the veterans have

Head coach: Jim Lambright Career college record: 14-8 Third season at Washington (14-8)

### 1994 RECORD: 7-4

Pac-10 record: 4-4 (fifth)

- L at USC 24-17
- W Ohio State 25-16
- W at Miami 38-20
- W UCLA 37-10
- W San Jose State 34-20
- W Arizona State 35-14
- L at Oregon 31-20
- W Oregon State 24-10
- L at Stanford 46-28
- W California 31-19
- L at Washington State 23-6

### Final '94 ranking: unranked

Lettermen lost: 14 Lettermen returning: 38 Returning starters, offense: 6 Returning starters, defense: 6

KEY GAMES: Oct. 7 Notre Dame Oct. 21 at Arizona Oct. 28 USC

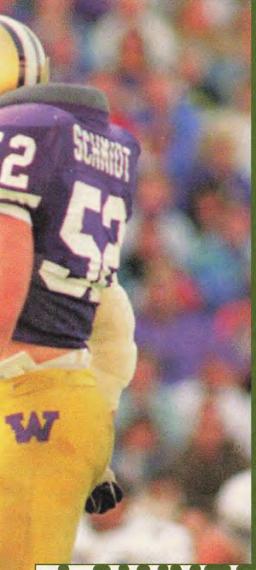
been flashing the rings and sweats they earned at Rose Bowls past. "The young guys are, like, Ooooh, we want some of that," Reser says. Don't be too surprised if they get it.

—ALAN SHIPNUCK



Conwell will be a sizable target for the now pass-happy Huskies.





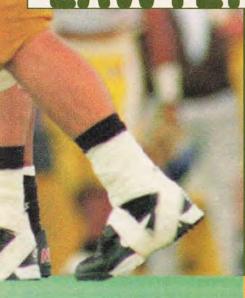
hen Lawyer Milloy was a little boy, his father always offered the same instructions before heading out the door for the faraway destinations to which the Army was sending him. "Lawyer, you're the man of the house now," Larry Milloy would say. "Hold down the fort." No one could have known at the time how prophetic those words would be.

When his family life was later torn asunder by his parents' drug use, Lawyer picked himself up by his bootstraps and steadfastly marched on. During the long, hard recovery process that followed, he was the one who prodded and motivated, forgave and forgot. As an All-Pac-10 safety for Washington and starting centerfielder for the Husky baseball team, Lawyer has made plenty of game-saving tackles and run-saving catches. But none of them can compare with the biggest save of all: his family.

"He held us all together," says Larry.
"We've been through some ups and
downs, but Lawyer has blessed us with a
lot of gifts. We can't ever repay him."

Lawyer's mother, Mae Blakeny, was only 15 when he was born (she married Larry a year later). Most everyone urged her to give up the baby, but Mae was a proud and determined mother. "I always felt if you were woman enough to get

LAWYER MILLOY



pregnant, you were woman enough to take care of your child," she says.

Larry Milloy, a senior in high school when Lawyer was born, entered the Army as a supply specialist shortly after graduation. He spent more than half of the next six years overseas but prided himself on providing for the family, and when he was home he doted on Lawyer. The Milloys had a second son, Galvin, seven years after Lawyer, and much of the family time was spent cheering at the sporting events of Tacoma (Wash.) East Side Boys and Girls Club, where Lawyer demonstrated phenomenal natural ability.

If times were occasionally lean, they were uniformly happy. "We always had love in the house," Lawyer says.

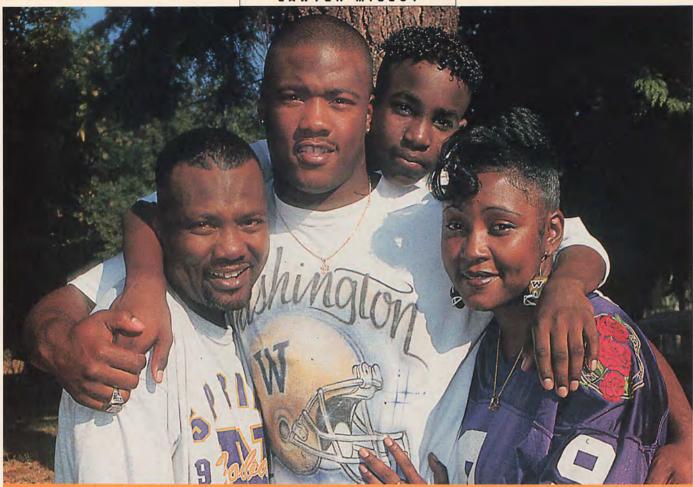
But this Rockwellian portrait bore ominous brushstrokes. Larry had been using drugs since he was 11, everything "from cocaine to reds to downers to Robitussin cough syrup all the way to heroin," he says. In time Mae, too, became a heavy user of cocaine. "They tried to hide it from me," Lawyer says. "I was kind of aware, but it was a case of not really wanting to know." He was 15 when he couldn't dodge the truth any longer. One day while Lawyer was at basketball practice, Larry signed for a large package of narcotics that arrived in the mail; he was arrested on the spot and sentenced to 21/2 years in prison for conspiracy to receive a controlled substance. On the day his father went away, Lawyer got a familiar feeling. "He didn't get the chance to say it, but I knew I was the man of the house again," he says.

But for all his maturity and devotion, Lawyer was powerless when Mae's drug use intensified. "I should have been stronger when my husband was sent away," she says, "but instead I got weaker."

Watching his mother's downward spiral was unbearable for Lawyer. The last straw came one night when Mae's dealer knocked on the door demanding payment. It was one of Lawyer's classmates. Lawyer wrapped his hands around the guy's throat and almost didn't let go. Shortly thereafter, he moved in with his best friend; after a court hearing in which Mae was declared an unfit parent, Lawyer was made a ward of the state. Galvin went to live with Mae's mom in St. Louis.

It was not long afterward that Mae, so high she hadn't slept in nearly a week, got on a bus and wound up in Trenton, N.J. She hadn't so much as said goodbye or left a note. "I thought I had lost her forever," Lawyer says. Mae spent the next year in Trenton as a janitor at the state capitol, scrubbing toilets on the graveyard shift and slowly trying to put the pieces of her life back together, with the hope of eventually returning to Tacoma. "The

ROD MAR/SEATTLE TIMES



Thanks to their elder son, the Milloys-(from left) Larry, Lawyer, Galvin and Mae-are together after some tough times.

only way to save myself was to get away," Mae says, "and I knew I wouldn't be able to bear hearing my boys' voices."

His dad behind bars, his mom gone without a trace and his brother in St. Louis, Lawyer felt like an orphan. He kept all the hurt and anger inside and became as strong and impenetrable as granite. What sustained him? "School and sports," he says. "That's all I had." He poured himself into his studies and became a terror on the playing fields. "That's the only place where I could take out all my aggressions," says the 6'2" 200-pounder. Lawyer also had an unbreakable pride, one that motivated him even when there was no one there to cheer him on. "Doing well in school," he says, "and taking care of business on the field was my way of being a role model to my mom and dad."

"He was an inspiration," Larry says.
"When I went [to prison], hearing his voice and finding out about all the good

things he was up to was one of the few things I had to look forward to."

Asked what finally brought her home, Mae pauses and then says softly, "Lawyer." She has walked the straight and narrow ever since, she says, "because Lawyer has done everything to make me proud of him. I want him to be proud of me."

The Milloys were reunited during Lawyer's senior year in high school. Today, Mae and Larry remain legally married and on good terms, but they have been living apart for the past 21/2 years. They still go to church together every Sunday, and often sit next to each other at Lawyer's games. Larry is working in the kitchen at Fort Lewis in Tacoma; the drugs are in his past. Mae, too, has been substance-free for more than two years and now volunteers at the treatment center where she finally slew her addiction. She is working toward becoming a fully credentialed chemicaldependency counselor. "I'm always telling them how proud I am of them," Lawyer says, his eyes smiling. Galvin, now 15, is also doing well. He came back from St. Louis shy and a little awkward socially, so Lawyer was relieved when his brother recently shelved his posters of sports stars for those of swimsuit models.

"All that stuff is behind us now,"
Lawyer says of the bad old days. "I never blamed my mom or dad for anything, and never held any grudges towards either of them for what happened."

These days, when Lawyer is rocking Husky Stadium with his bone-rattling tackles or showing off the myriad talents that got him drafted by the Detroit Tigers in the 19th round of June's Major League Baseball amateur draft, Mae and Larry are there cheering him on and yelling themselves hoarse. "It's times like those," Mae says, "that I just want to stand up and shout for everyone to hear, He made it! Lawyer made it! And I made it, too! We all made it!"

—ALAN SHIPNUCK





"Our house was on Piggott Street, across from a liquor store and a pool hall. But it was also near a recreation center, where Mr. Fennoy was a volunteer.

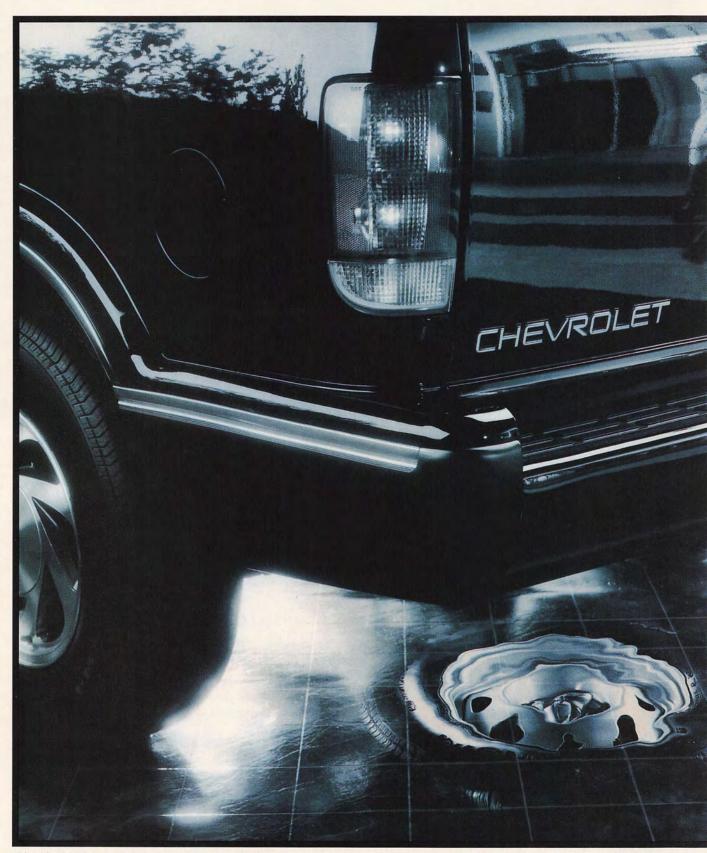
Even though I was too young, I had no other place to go, so Mr. Fennoy let me come to the center and run. Soon I could catch the older girls, and soon after that I was passing them.

I always knew
I could run fast,
but without Mr. Fennoy,
I would have never known
I could run so far."



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LIKE A ROCK

# Tomain State

The mid-January phone call was expected. Dennis Erickson had left Miami to coach the Seattle Seahawks, and the Hurricanes were interested in Sonny Lubick as a replacement. It was perfectly logical. Lubick had been an assistant under Erickson and had left to become coach at Colorado State two years earlier.

Lubick flew to Miami for the requisite

It is presumed that coaches live on a ladder, climbing as they work, always seeking a better job. Assistants become coordinators, coordinators become head coaches and then go on to jobs at more powerful schools; those head coaches then move to the NFL. Last Jan. 17, Lubick climbed off the ladder. "I looked at what we've got going here," he says, "and it

looked pretty good to me."

Lubick's decision to stay at Colorado State says a lot about him, but also much about the program itself. In '94, the Rams recorded the first 10-win season in school history and won the WAC title. Lubick is so beloved in Fort Collins that a roast in his honor in April drew 700 people. His decision to turn down the Miami job prompted Colorado State to give him a \$50,000 raise, to \$200,000 a year-Miami would have paid him about \$500,000and set a goal of selling 10,000 season tickets, which would be a record.

Colorado State has 12 returning starters, the best among them on defense: end Sean Moran, cornerback Ray Jackson,

linebacker Garrett Sand and free safety Greg Myers, all seniors. When Myers first came to Fort Collins, he was a 165-pound state sprint and pole-vault champion from the town of Windsor (pop. 6,000), just 15 minutes away. Despite his athletic skills, he seemed too puny to play Division I football. But Myers has blossomed into a four-year starter for the Rams, a 6'2", 193-pound free safety with 4.4 speed and NFL prospects. He is also a biological science major and an Academic All-America, a billboard for the student-athlete ideal.



Twelve returning starters means more Ram revelry.

interviews and for another look at facilities and faces he already knew well. "We loved living in South Florida," he says. "And as far as the talent there, they've got as many good players as ever." The job wasn't formally offered, but both Lubick and Miami knew that it was his if he wanted it. He flew home to Fort Collins, Colo., a 57-year-old man ready to fulfill a dream. And then he let go.

"I fit in here," Lubick says, sitting in his office in Fort Collins. "This is the right place for me right now." Myers and the rest of the D will be expected to carry the team because the offense lost both guards, the center and quarterback Anthoney Hill, the Rams' career total offense leader. Lubick has four inexperienced quarterbacks to choose from: junior college transfer Daren Wilkinson, sophomore Moses Moreno and redshirt freshmen Ryan Eslinger and Craig Akins. The offensive line will be rebuilt from a talent pool that "seems like it's doubled" in the last five years, according to offensive line coach and former player John Benton.

The Rams' big challenge will come in their second game, against rival Colorado. In Boulder. On ESPN. It is the type of game that Lubick stayed at Colorado State to play. He can still recall last Oct. 8, the day after the Rams beat Arizona 21–16 in Tucson. Colorado State flew into Denver's Stapleton Airport and drove home to Fort Collins in the team's green bus. "Cars were honking at us, pulling over and waving. It was the most incredible thing," he says.

The most incredible thing, no disrespect, is that Lubick is back to chase another celebration. Colorado State football is solid and secure.

—TIM LAYDEN

### THE DATA BOX

Head coach: Sonny Lubick Career college record: 36–27 Third year at Colorado State (15–8)

### 1994 RECORD: 10-2

WAC record: 7-1 (first)

W at Air Force 34-21

W Utah State 41-16
W at BYU 28-21

W San Diego State 19-17

W at New Mexico 38-31

W at Arizona 21-16

W at UTEP 47-9

L Utah 45-31

W Wyoming 35-24

W Arkansas State 48-3

W Fresno State 44-42

L Michigan 24-14 (Holiday Bowl)

Final '94 ranking: 16 AP, 14 CNN/USA Today

Lettermen lost: 15 Lettermen returning: 36 Returning starters, offense: 5 Returning starters, defense: 7

KEY GAMES: Sept. 9 at Colorado Sept. 30 BYU Oct. 14 at Utah

# 18 Boston College

When Boston College takes on the role of underdog, it doesn't mess around. Having said farewell to last year's brightest stars, including All-America tight end Pete Mitchell, linebacker and leading tackler Stephen Boyd, and sack master—defensive end Mike Mamula (the No. 7 pick in the NFL draft), the Eagles now face college football's nastiest schedule.

Among the dozen opponents lining up against BC will be Notre Dame—sure to be a bit testy after two consecutive upset losses to the Eagles (page 24)—Ohio State, Virginia Tech, Michigan, Michigan State, West Virginia and Miami. Says defensive backfield coach Bill McGovern, "We have to be the only team in America playing in the Big East and the Big Ten."

Add to that lineup the pressure of playing at least four times on national television, and things are bound to get hot in Chestnut Hill. "This team will be under the gun on many occasions," says coach Dan Henning. "Their individual talents are not as significant as how well they meld as a team."

And melding should not be a problem. "BC football is really like a family," junior quarterback Mark Hartsell says. "On the practice field we squabble all the time, just like brothers."

The Eagles have further bonded through the common misery of Henning's 6 a.m. spring practices, a rite he initiated last year when the renovation of Alumni Stadium forced the team to grab the only available field time at nearby Boston University. "I love it," says Henning of the early start. "No class conflicts, and no media or girlfriends to create distractions."

Without much overall speed, BC's biggest strengths will be up front. With four of five starters returning, including All-America candidate Pete Kendall at left tackle, the O-line looks much like

the one that gave up just 15 sacks in 359 passing plays in '94. On defense, tackles Joe O'Brien and Chris Sullivan and noseguard Tim Morabito form the nucleus of a solid wall, with the formidably named, 6' 6" junior Stalin Colinet taking Mamula's place at end.

Although Henning says the Eagles' offensive deep threat "isn't there yet," Hartsell has tried-and-true receivers in senior flanker Greg Grice and in junior split end Kenyatta Watson, who led all of BC's wideouts last year, with 43 catches for 568 yards and three TDs. Replacing running back David Green, who rushed for 1,018 yards in '94, will be senior Justice Smith and sophomore short-yardage specialist Omari Walker, whose nine TDs led the Eagles last year.

The defensive backfield will be sparked by 5'9" junior cornerback Daryl Porter, a former running back who racked up 76 tackles last year. "Daryl is very explosive, in every sense of the

Head coach: Dan Henning Career college record: 7-4-1 Second year at Boston College (7-4-1)

### 1994 RECORD: 7-4-1

Big East record: 3-3-1 (fourth)

L at Michigan 34-26

L Virginia Tech 12-7

W at Pittsburgh 21-9

W Notre Dame 30-11

W Temple 45-28

T Rutgers 7-7

W at Army 30-3

W at Louisville 35-14

W Syracuse 31-0

L at West Virginia 21-20

L at Miami 23-7

W Kansas State 12-7 (Aloha Bowl)

Final '94 ranking: 23 AP, 22 CNN/USA Today

Lettermen lost: 15 Lettermen returning: 37 Returning starters, offense: 7 Returning starters, defense: 6

KEY GAMES: Sept. 16 Michigan Oct. 28 at Notre Dame Nov. 11 Miami

word," says McGovern. "He always looks like he's ready to bust at the seams, he's so excited to be out on the field. The guy really loves a challenge."

This year he and his teammates will have many.

—KELLI ANDERSON



Besides Miami, Sullivan (93) and BC will tackle a brutal nonconference schedule.

he best thing about being a left tackle," says Pete Kendall of Boston College, "is shutting down your opponent and not letting him get anywhere near your quarterback." The 6'5", 287-pound fifth-year senior leans back in his chair in the dining area of BC's Conte Forum and steals a glance at the Muppet characters frolicking on a bigscreen TV 10 feet away. As Kermit and friends sing about being nice and respecting others, Kendall's blue eyes flicker for a moment. "No, wait," he says, reconsidering. "Shutting down your opponent is the second-best thing. The best thing is *telling* your opponent he's not getting anywhere near your quarterback."

Nice? Respectful? When it comes to being neighborly on the football field, Kendall is the barbed-wire fence and the barking dog. "Look, if I didn't jaw, I wouldn't play as well," he says. "When I tell an opponent he left his pass rush at the airport, that makes him step up his game, and that puts more pressure on me. I thrive under that pressure. But I try to make sure there are no hard feelings."

Sometimes, alas, there are. After the Miami game last year, one Hurricane was so irritated by Kendall's smack that he grabbed a yard marker and chased Kendall into the tunnel before being cut off by the crowd. "People like Pete Kendall are the catalysts for great performances for themselves, their teammates and their opponents," says BC coach Dan Henning. "Back in the '60s, Muhammad Ali was the catalyst that brought out the best in everybody. I tell Pete he better be able to back up what he says."

Fortunately, the All-America candidate does put his massive body where his mouth is. With Kendall anchoring one of the best offensive lines in the country, the Eagles outgained 11 of their 12 opponents

last year, amassing 1,904 yards on the ground and 2,249 in the air. Kendall didn't give up a single sack, a fact that was not lost on the Big East, which named him first-team all-conference, or on BC junior quarterback Mark Hartsell's mother, who phoned her son to express her relief when she heard that Kendall had decided to stay in Chestnut Hill instead of declaring for the NFL draft.

"With Pete and this offensive line in

Kendall eventually found it and ripped it up. "He is an example of what you can do if you take something seriously and work hard enough at it."

Kendall started out at Division 4
Williams as a jayvee quarterback. "He had an arm like a cannon," says Aborn.
"But he also had a nasty streak, and we knew from looking at his dad [Pete, a 6'5", 290-pound cop] that he was going to be big. We weren't going to waste all of

### PETE KENDALL

front of me," says Hartsell, "I can drop back without one worry. I think his confidence gives me and everybody else on the team confidence." How confident is Kendall? While Hartsell discusses plays in the huddle, Kendall often stands up and addresses the other team. "This game is over," Kendall says. At the line of scrimmage he gets more personal: "The ball's coming right at you, buddy, and you can't do anything about it."

Steve Aborn, Kendall's line coach at Archbishop Williams High in Braintree, Mass., can sum up Kendall in four words. "I told you so," says Aborn. "He never says that, he just embodies it."

Aborn used to keep in his office a black-and-white photo taken around the time Kendall first announced to the Williams coaching staff that he would be earning a Division I football scholarship. The picture shows Kendall at about 14, a 6'1", 140-pound sapling in a jayvee basketball uniform. In the ensuing years, whenever Aborn sensed that one of his players was concerned about his lack of size, he would pull out that photo of Kendall and dangle it before the adolescent like an amulet. "Pete is the American dream," says Aborn, who no longer has the photograph because

that on a quarterback."

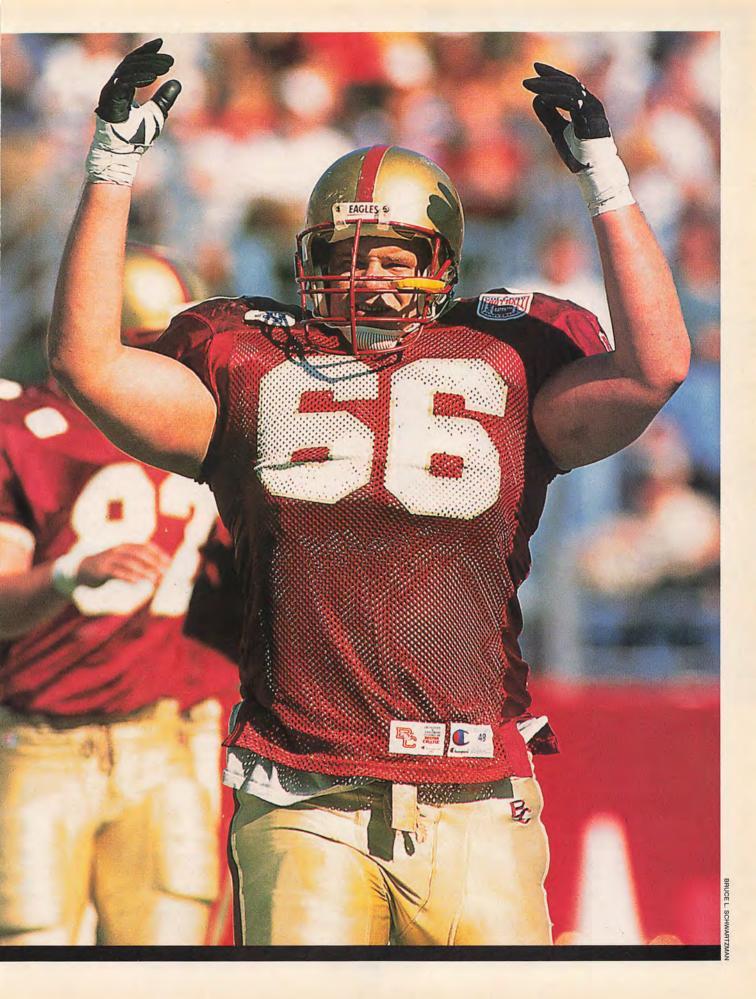
So Kendall shifted first to backup tight end, then to defensive and offensive lineman. He worked on technique, lifted weights through basketball and baseball seasons and "kept his mouth shut," says Aborn. By the time he made his first start, midway through his junior year, Kendall was 6'4", 198 pounds and ready to rumble. "Pete is the kind of guy who, after making a block, will run down the field looking for someone else to hit," Aborn says.

Stressed out by an endless stream of recruiters—and bothered by a mysterious infection—Kendall lost 30 pounds as a senior. "You start to develop a relationship with each of these coaches, and at 17 you don't want to let anyone down," he says. In the end his choice was between Notre Dame and BC. Lou Holtz showed up for breakfast; ex-Giant assistant and newly hired BC coach Tom Coughlin called from the Super Bowl. But Kendall was impressed by Coughlin's steely intensity, which is not unlike his own. "I know I could have played anywhere," Kendall says. "But wherever I play, I expect to win."

And you can be sure he's prepared to back that up.

—Kelli Anderson

Whether as a blocker or a talker, Kendall knows how to fire up a crowd, an opponent and Boston College all at once.



When coach Bill Snyder came to Manhattan, Kans., in November 1988, the Wildcats had gone nearly 800 days without winning a game. K-State had just become the first program ever to amass 500 defeats, and the average attendance at KSU Stadium had sagged below 20,000. As Snyder surveyed the losing landscape before him, he told his

three—and their 18 wins since '93 are a school record for a two-year period.

So, Bill, just exactly what did you do?

"The major task was to get our youngsters to expect more out of themselves than what they actually expected," says Snyder. Translation: Snyder had to create a winning tradition by fanning dreams and desires. It's

hardly the sort of complex blueprint you might expect, but it has worked quite nicely in Manhattan.

Snyder still hasn't defeated Nebraska or Colorado—when that happens, it will be yet another high-water mark in the program's ascent-but his Wildcats have a good shot at doing it this season. Though quarterback Chad May, who set 10 Big Eight records in the last two years, has gone on to the NFL, there shouldn't be an appreciable drop in offensive production. The attack has seven starters returning and a host of young, quick

players who will fill in at key positions.

The quarterback will probably be senior Matt Miller, a transfer from Texas A & M who served as a seldom-used backup last season. While he lacks the cannon arm that May possesses, Miller is familiar with the offense and nimble in the pocket. Perhaps the best measure of just how far Kansas State has come since '89 is its current depth at running back. The Wildcats lost their alltime leading rusher, J.J. Smith, to graduation. But waiting to replace him in Snyder's one-

back set are two promising sophomores from Florida: Mike Lawrence, a slashing runner, and Eric Hickson, a 4.38 speed merchant. K-State will be deeper—if not stronger—at tailback in '95.

The purple people-eating defense that finished 23rd in the country last year has eight starters returning. The key to the defense is the man-to-man coverage skills of cornerbacks Joe Gordon and Chris Canty; while they blanket the perimeter, the Wildcats push their safeties up toward the line of scrimmage to suffocate opponents' running games. Senior safety Chuck Marlowe led the team with 96 tackles last season and is a candidate for the Thorpe Award, while 6'1", 275-pound senior tackle Tim Colston is in the hunt for the Lombardi, and outside linebacker Percell Gaskins, a 6'1", 215-pound senior, will make a run at the Butkus.

With a favorable schedule that includes seven home games, the Wildcats should continue to inch their way closer to the elite programs of college football. That kind of success would have been a far-fetched dream even for Snyder seven years ago.

-LARS ANDERSON



Gaskins (9) and the Wildcat D will take aim at Nebraska.

players, "We have an opportunity to create one of the greatest turnarounds in college football."

And that is precisely what K-State has done. In just seven years, Snyder, the former offensive coordinator at Iowa, has taken a team that was dumped 26–22 by Austin Peay the season before he arrived and sculpted it into a national power. The Wildcats have gone to a bowl game in each of the last two seasons—thereby lifting the total bowl appearances in their 98-year history to

#### THE DATA BOX

Head coach: Bill Snyder Career college record: 36-31-1 Seventh year at Kansas State (36-31-1)

#### 1994 RECORD: 9-3

Big Eight record: 5-2 (third)

W Southwestern Louisiana 34-6

W Rice 27-18

W Minnesota 35-0

W at Kansas 21-13

L Nebraska 17-6 L at Colorado 35-21

W at Oklahoma 37-20

W Iowa State 38-20

W at Missouri 21-18

W Oklahoma State 23-6

W at UNLV 42-3

Boston College 12-7 (Aloha Bowl)

Final '94 ranking: 19 AP, 16 CNN/USA Today

Lettermen lost: 17 Lettermen returning: 36 Returning starters, offense: 7 Returning starters, defense: 8

KEY GAMES: Oct. 21 at Nebraska Nov. 4 Oklahoma Nov. 18 Colorado

## 20/Amizona

The progression was swift and, it turns out, unmanageable. At the start of the 1993 season, Arizona was a good, but largely anonymous, program with a theme defense (Desert Swarm) and a fresh face. The Wildcats went 9–2, stunned Miami 29–0 in the Fiesta Bowl and instantly gained national recognition.

In '94, the Wildcats were ranked No. 1 and featured on the cover of SI's college football preview. "You can't put any more pressure on us than we put on ourselves," coach Dick Tomey said before last season. While that may have been true, it was also true that the Wildcats wilted under the spotlight.

But there is another side to the lessons of '94 for Arizona. If the ascension to national power was more than the Wildcats could handle, they should remember this: They would have played in the Rose Bowl if they had beaten Oregon in Game 8; that game essentially ended when a Wildcat pass was intercepted late in the fourth quarter. And Arizona has won 18 games in two years, which qualifies as excellence by almost any standard in college football. But the measure of Arizona's arrival among the perennial powers will come this season as it seeks to remain a top program.

To do that, Arizona must rebuild the defensive dominance that made it the most intimidating—and inscrutable—team in the Pac-10 in 1992 and '93. But Desert Swarm was unmasked last autumn. Many Pac-10 teams have solved the riddle of Arizona's double-eagle flex alignment, which will necessitate adjustments by the Wildcats.

Defensive end Tedy Bruschi, an undersized (6' 1", 255) but relentless pass rusher who had 10 sacks last fall, is likely to repeat as first-team All-America and is a candidate for the Outland and Lombardi awards. Also returning on the defensive line are senior nosetackle Chuck Osborne and junior tackle Joe Salave'a.

It is also necessary for the Arizona secondary, which allowed 13 touchdown passes a year ago while intercepting only four, to improve dramatically. The leader is senior strong safety Brandon Sanders, a motormouth big-hit specialist who will pass his wisdom and attitude on to a crop of four high school All-Americas.

The Arizona offense lost tailback Ontiwaun Carter, who rushed for 1,163 yards, as well as all five starters from a veteran line that underachieved last season. This places an additional burden on senior quarterback Dan White, who has played a supporting role in his two years as a starter. "Now it's time for him to step up his game," says Tomey.

It was after Arizona's Freedom Bowl loss to Utah that Bruschi, upon seeing a familiar writer in the belly of Anaheim Stadium, made the following statement, almost by way of explaining the Wildcats' absence from Pasadena: "The

Head coach: Dick Tomey Career college record: 117-81-7 Ninth year at Arizona (54-35-4)

#### 1994 RECORD: 8-4

Pac-10 record: 6-2 (tied for second)

#### W at Georgia Tech 19-14

W New Mexico State 44-0

W at Stanford 34-10

W Oregon State 30-10

L Colorado State 21-16

W at Washington State 10-7

W UCLA 34-24

L at Oregon 10-9

W California 13-6

L at USC 45-28

W Arizona State 28-27

L Utah 16-13 (Freedom Bowl)

Final '94 rankings: 20 AP, 20 CNN/USA Today

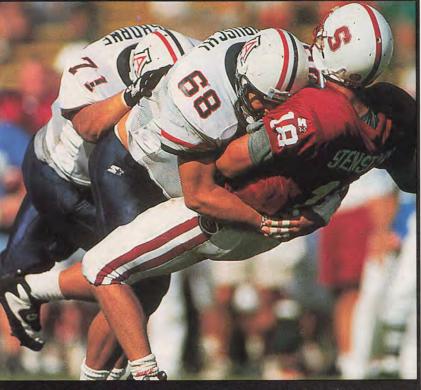
Lettermen lost: 23 Lettermen returning: 37 Returning starters, offense: 3 Returning starters, defense: 7

KEY GAMES: Sept. 23 USC Oct. 21 Washington Nov. 11 Oregon

Pac-10 is the best conference in the country, top to bottom."

Perhaps. But clearly '95 is the Wildcats' year to prove that they have established a foothold near the top.

—TIM LAYDEN



Bruschi (68) and Osborne must get the Arizona defense back in line.

If the rain fell hard on the crops of my uncle If the sun shined steadfast on my white friends If my love would describe me as her love I would be so, so happy....

-STONIE

He has read his poetry to the goateed crowd at Emo's, a club in Austin, and to the great, more-washed masses on CBS during last year's Sun Bowl. But this season, if Texas has one of its seemingly annual letdowns, senior noseguard Stonie

Mackovic had his troops up and training at 6 a.m. in the off-season. "In the past, we've just kind of blown a circuit," says senior linebacker Robert Reed. "It's strange, because we match up physically with any team in the nation."

Clark is one reason why, having recovered from a lacerated kidney he suffered last November in a car crash. Another is sophomore noseguard Chris Akins, the SWC's defensive newcomer of the year in '94 and a three-time state

> powerlifting champ at Paris (Texas) High. Then there is junior end Tony Brackens, who at 6'4", 240 pounds, lifted 300-pound tackle Blake Brockermeyer off his feet in practice last year.

> Brackens grew up on a 300-head cattle ranch in Fairfield. Texas, and has done some horse-breaking and team roping. In his first two seasons he racked up 17 sacks. and he attributes his intuitive ability to read offensive tackles to the way he reads steers and stallions. "Just dispositionwise," Brackens says, "you get a feel for what an animal's going to do,

whether he'll fight or whether he's bluffing."

The Longhorn offense will most likely be in the hands of sophomore quarterback James Brown, who played well when strong-armed Shea Morenz was injured last season. Morenz, a junior, was a firstround pick by the New York Yankees in baseball's amateur draft and is pursuing a career on the diamond. "James takes what is there, and he can make more plays with



Brackens (98) has shown a knack for Steer-wrestling.

Clark will not be so, so happy—and he's going to make sure his teammates know it. "I'm one of the leaders, so I won't let that happen," Clark says. "I will address it. And I doubt I'll be using poetry."

high as No. 12 in the polls), crashed (losing three of four), climbed again (averaging 48.7 points over their last three games) and finished 8-4. To guard against such inconsistency, coach John

his feet [than Morenz]," offensive coordinator Gene Dahlquist says of Brown, who wound up 20 attempts shy of qualifying as the nation's leader in passing efficiency. Brown will be greatly aided by the return of wideout Mike Adams, who set a school record with 908 receiving yards in '93, and who is expected to regain his academic eligibility.

Brockermeyer's early departure to the NFL caused massive shuffling in the offensive line; all three returning starters will be in new positions. The backfield, too, is in some disarray after senior Priest Holmes suffered a season-ending knee injury in the spring. With 55 carries last year, sophomore Darrell Wilson is the most experienced returning back, though freshman Ricky Williams from San Diego or converted receiver Wane McGarity could step into the starting role.

Clark would like nothing more than to pen a ditty about a 1995 conference title and his first victory over Texas A & M in four years. "The great thing about poetry is, you can say what you mean but you don't have to really say it," Clark says. In football, though, it's not enough to mean to win. You have to do it.—HANK HERSCH

#### THE DATA BOX

Head coach: John Mackovic Career college record: 63-50-2 Fourth year at Texas (19-14-1)

1994 RECORD: 8-4

SWC record: 4-3 (tied for first)

W at Pittsburgh 30-28

W Louisville 30-16

W at TCU 34-18

L at Colorado 34-31

W Oklahoma 17-10 (at Dallas)

L at Rice 19-17

W SMU 42-20

L at Texas Tech 33-9

L Texas A&M 34-10

W Houston 48-13

W at Baylor 63-35

W North Carolina 35-31 (Sun Bowl)

Final '94 ranking: 25 AP, 23 CNN/USA Today

Lettermen lost: 14 Lettermen returning: 42 Returning starters, offense: 6 Returning starters, defense: 8

**KEY GAMES:** 

Sept. 23 at Notre Dame Oct. 14 Oklahoma (at Dallas) Dec. 2 at Texas A&M

In 1994 the Longhorns climbed (as

220hio State

he Big Ten spotlight never quite finds the Buckeyes these days. Some players leave before it reaches them: As juniors, offensive tackle Korey Stringer and linebackers Craig Powell and Lorenzo Styles were selected in the top 77 picks of April's NFL draft. Some get upstaged: In '94 quarterback Bobby Hoying played third fiddle to the Collinses-Penn State's Kerry and Michigan's Toddwhile tailback Eddie George was eclipsed by Heisman Trophy runner-up Ki-Jana Carter. And then there is the Rose Bowl blackout: It has been 10 seasons since Ohio State appeared in the New Year's Day showcase.

Because of the early NFL defections, relative obscurity will most likely be the Buckeyes' lot again this year. Orlando Pace, the conference's Freshman of the Year, will help fill the void at tackle, but, says coach John Cooper, "Styles and Powell leaving early caught me pretty much off guard." Junior Ryan Miller steps in for Powell, while junior Greg Bellisari shifts from outside to the middle, Styles's old stamping ground.

The defense will be solid, anchored by junior defensive ends Mike Vrabel (a school-record 12 sacks last season) and Matt Finkes (11). Sophomore cornerback Shawn Springs, the son of ex–Buckeye running back Ron, refuses to be overlooked; his nickname is the Politician, because he has never met a microphone he couldn't monopolize. "I'm Prime Time II, coming to a field near you," he says. "I get a kick out of seeing myself in magazines and things like that." Springs may well be the Buckeyes' first All-America defensive back since Ray Griffin in 1977.

Hoying threw for 2,335 yards in '94, the second-highest total in OSU history, and tied the school record with 19 TD throws. George rushed for 1,442 yards.

The receiving corps of juniors Terry Glenn and Buster Tillman and freshman Dee Miller should ease the pain of losing two-year starters Joey Galloway and Chris Sanders. Glenn grew up in Columbus, and he grew up the hard way. When he was 13, his mother was murdered and he was taken in by a friend's parents. After playing at Brookhaven High, he failed to score the scholarship requirement of 700 on his SATs and walked on three miles away at Ohio State. He proved himself worthy of a scholarship in the spring of '92 but has almost lost it since then because of academic shortcomings. "I've used up a lot of lives," he says. "I think I'm like a cat. I've got about nine, I'm about on number eight."

Tillman (33 receptions, 455 yards) excels at shaking tackles after the catch. "I like to make something happen," he says, "as opposed to a lot of receivers who like to run a post or something."

The Buckeyes will need all their weapons for their toughest preconference schedule in years: Boston College in the Head coach: John Cooper Career college record: 136-66-6 Eighth year at Ohio State (54-26-4)

#### 1994 RECORD: 9-4

Big Ten record: 6-2 (second)

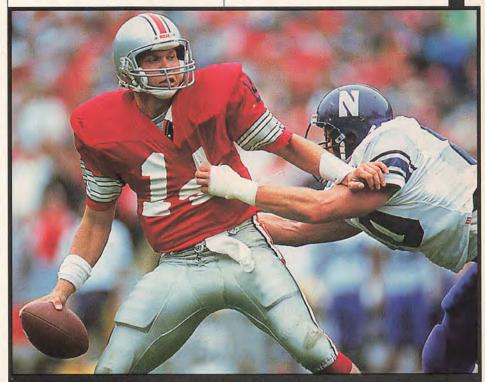
- W Fresno State 34-10 (Pigskin Classic)
- L at Washington 25-16
- W Pittsburgh 27-3
- W Houston 52-0
- W at Northwestern 17-15
- L Illinois 24-10
- W at Michigan State 23-7
- W Purdue 48-14
- L at Penn State 63-14
- W Wisconsin 24-3
- W at Indiana 32-17
- W Michigan 22-6
- L Alabama 24-17 (Citrus Bowl)

Final '94 ranking: 14 AP, 9 CNN/USA Today

Lettermen lost: 16 Lettermen returning: 33 Returning starters, offense: 8 Returning starters, defense: 6

KEY GAMES: Sept. 30 Notre Dame Oct. 7 at Penn State Nov. 25 at Michigan

Kickoff Classic, followed by games against Washington, Pitt and Notre Dame. Put it all together and it spells a third-place finish in the Big Ten, and yet another solid—if not spectacular—season for Ohio State. —HANK HERSCH



Hoying (14) is a Buckeye stalwart but has yet to grab the Big Ten limelight.

## 23 South Carolina

The team's plane was scheduled to arrive in Columbia at 8 p.m., but it didn't land until 11. Five thousand South Carolina football fans, chanting and cheering in the chilly January night, barely noticed the delay. They'd waited 102 years to welcome home a bowl winner, so what was another couple of hours?

"There were so many people, you can't imagine," says senior running back

another loss. While no other team in the nation has played in as many as five bowls without a win, South Carolina was 0–8 and hadn't participated in the postseason since 1988. The Gamecocks' win over West Virginia in the Carquest Bowl will go down in history, along with the firing on Fort Sumter, as one of the state's most memorable battles.

"We'd done something they'd been

waiting for forever," says quarterback Steve Taneyhill, who seems to have been leading the team for just about that long. In '92 he earned the starting job in midseason as a long-haired, loudmouthed freshman who took over an 0-5 team, predicted six wins to finish out the year and came within one of delivering. Now he's a senior who has solidified his position in Gamecock lore and lets his play do most of the talking. He'll be capably backed up by redshirt freshman Anthony Wright, who Scott says reminds him of his former

Seminole charge Charlie Ward.

Taneyhill will run a hybrid of the fastbreak offense Scott coordinated at Florida State and the Fun 'N' Gun that new quarterbacks coach John Reaves helped execute at Florida. "It should be a pretty doggone good combination," Scott says. "With a mixture of the Florida offense and the Florida State offense, we ought to be able to score some points."

Some of those points will come courtesy of Pritchett, who became a tailback on the first day of spring practice



Pritchett (39) & Co. must cope with high expectations.

Stanley Pritchett. "It seemed like the whole city of Columbia." The turnout certainly surprised coach Brad Scott, who was finishing his first year as the Gamecock coach after 11 seasons as a Florida State assistant. "I had no idea how big a deal the win was to the South Carolina fans until it was over," he says. "For me and most of my staff, coming from Florida State, where we'd won 11 straight, it was just another bowl game."

For Gamecock fans, "just another bowl game" would have meant just

after serving at fullback last season, in which he was the team's leading scorer. "When you're that big and have the ability to make the first guy miss, that's what we need at tailback," Scott says.

Keeping the opposition from doing the same will be a bigger challenge. Scott calls Eric Sullivan, a senior defensive tackle, the hardest worker on the line, and it's a good thing, because he's the only returning starter there. South Carolina must also replace two starters in the secondary from a team that finished in the bottom half of the Southeastern Conference in nearly every defensive category in 1994. But one returnee, sophomore free safety Ben Washington, has permanently endeared himself to the Gamecock faithful: It was his thirdquarter interception and 42-yard return that set up South Carolina's winning touchdown in the Carquest Bowl.

With that victory secured, though, the team knows that scoring points with the fans may be a bit more challenging now. "Expectations will be higher than ever," Taneyhill says. "We've got to work our butts off to make sure we don't disappoint." —DANA GELIN

#### THE DATA BOX

Head coach: Brad Scott Career college record: 7–5 Second year at South Carolina (7–5)

1994 RECORD: 7-5

SEC record: 4-4 (fifth)

L Georgia 24-21

W Arkansas 14-0

W Louisiana Tech 31-6

W at Kentucky 23-9

W at LSU 18-17

L East Carolina 56-42

L Mississippi State 41-36

W at Vanderbilt 19-16

L Tennessee 31-22

L at Florida 48-17

W at Clemson 33-7

W West Virginia 24-21 (Carquest Bowl)

Final '94 ranking: unranked

Lettermen lost: 12 Lettermen returning: 47 Returning starters, offense: 7 Returning starters, defense: 6

KEY GAMES: Sept. 2 at Georgia Oct. 28 at Tennessee Nov. 11 Florida

## **独**BYU

So what's it like to be a quarterback at BYU? "If Steve Young [class of '83] came back today and played for us under a phony name," says coach LaVell Edwards, "most people around here would say, 'He's all right, but not as good as Steve Young.' I'm serious. There is no way anyone can live up to the expectations placed on that position here."

Welcome, Steve Sarkisian.

An All-America last season at El Camino Junior College in Torrance, Calif., Sarkisian takes over for the departed John Walsh. Though Sarkisian admits to having gotten goose bumps when he met the real Steve Young this past off-season, he is nonchalant about all the hype. "It's there, but I'm not stressing," he says, sounding every bit the Southern California native that he is. "I'm just thrilled to be playing Division I football."

Coming out of high school, Sarkisian didn't have any scholarship offers, mainly because he was only 6-foot and 170 pounds. But two years, two inches, 30 pounds and one impressive spring later, he's calling the shots for the Cougars. "Sometimes I'm amazed myself," he says. For all his modesty, Sarkisian is a fearless competitor, whip smart and highly polished. He is also a nifty scrambler, which will come in handy because the offensive line must replace four starters.

All the other pieces are in place for the Cougars' controlled passing game. Senior fullback Hema Heimuli is a hardnosed, slashing runner and a big-play threat as a receiver out of the backfield. He racked up more than 1,000 total yards last year. Juniors Chad Lewis and Itula Mili are perhaps the finest tight end duo in the country. Lewis is a sturdy blocker with an on-field temperament to match his fiery red hair. Mili is considered the team's best athlete, and he will also see time as a fullback and slot receiver. "Itula's smo-o-oth, with three o's," says the voluble Lewis.

"Together we are going to create some serious mismatches out there."

Big things are expected this season from BYU's defense, and it all starts with senior identical twins John and Stan Raass (rhymes with hoss). John, a 6-foot, 300-pound right tackle, has astonishing bounce for the ounce. "John is the quickest, most agile man for his size that I have ever seen," Edwards says. Stan has slimmed down to a svelte 260 pounds to play outside linebacker.

The line has both senior Mike Ulufale, a 6'5", 285-pound earthmover at left tackle, and 6'5", 270-pound redshirt freshman Ed Kehl, who grew three inches and gained 60 pounds during a two-year Mormon mission after high school, at left end.

Regardless, it is the passing game that will be the talk of Provo. "Everything around here is quarterback, quarterback, quarterback," says Stan Raass. "This defense is going to be very, Head coach: LaVell Edwards Career college record: 207-76-3 24th year at BYU (207-76-3)

1994 RECORD: 10-3

WAC record: 6-2 (tied for second)

W at Hawaii 13-12

W at Air Force 45-21

L Colorado State 28-21

W New Mexico 49-47

W Utah State 34-6

W at Fresno State 32-30

W at Notre Dame 21-14

W UTEP 34-28

L Arizona State 36-15

W Northeast Louisiana 24-10

W San Diego State 35-28

L at Utah 34-31

W Oklahoma 31-6 (Copper Bowl)

Final '94 ranking: 18 AP, 10 CNN/USA Today

Lettermen lost: 24 Lettermen returning: 41 Returning starters, offense: 3 Returning starters, defense: 6

KEY GAMES: Sept. 30 at Colorado State Oct. 14 at Arizona State Nov. 18 Utah

very good. We could even dominate."

Pause.

Sigh.

"But I guarantee the only thing you'll hear about is the quarterback."

—ALAN SHIPNUCK



Twins John (51) and Stan (50) Raass double the pressure on BYU foes.

It's not easy figuring out who was the best linebacker at Illinois last year. Consider the following:

Kevin Hardy was voted by his coaches as the Illini Defensive Player of the Year, even though he received about as much ink as you would find on an SAT test sheet. That was due in part to the sublime play of ...

Simeon Rice, whose 16 sacks as a

Howard have thought when he was drafted 24 slots behind teammate ...

John Holecek, the only player among the quartet not named first-team All-Big Ten?

"There's almost too much talent at this position here," says Famous Hulbert, a third-string sophomore linebacker who is both Famous and anonymous at the same time.

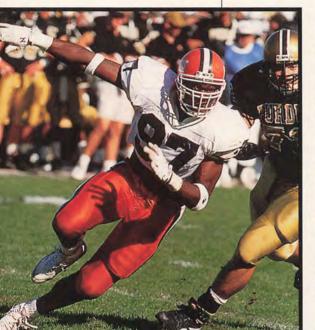
> Why the glut of linebacking talent at Illinois? "It all goes back to recruiting," savs defensive coordinator Denny Marcin. "You walk into a defensive lineman's home, and he says, 'Coach, I wanna be a linebacker.' Sounds nastier, faster. O.K., then that's what I call them."

Indeed, the 6'5", 243-pound Rice, who is being pushed for the Heisman Trophy by the school, actually plays defensive end. But in Marcin's 50 defense, Rice's title is Rush Linebacker.

Considering the

defensive talent, the Illini's 7-5 record a year ago was a disappointment. The team, however, never lost a game by more than six points and hopes that its fourth new offensive coordinator in the last four years, Paul Schudel, will help light up the scoreboard.

Much of the voltage will come from junior flanker Jason Dulick (52 receptions in '94), who at 6'5" provides an easy target for the Illini quarterback. Whoever that may be. "We have a strong one-two punch at quarterback,"



Rice will be beating linemen and stalking the Heisman.

junior last season gave him a career total of 33, three shy of the Big Ten record. Following the team's 30-0 Liberty Bowl shutout of East Carolina, Rice was told by NFL draftnik Mel Kiper Jr. that if he were to declare for the draft he would be the No. 1 pick. And yet Rice finished fourth in the voting for the Butkus Award as the country's best linebacker

were a team high and his 595 career

says Illinois coach Lou Tepper. "Both Johnny Johnson and Scott Weaver need to gain experience in our offense."

Johnson, a senior, got most of the work last year, tossing 19 touchdowns and only six interceptions while putting up a 137.6 passing efficiency, second best in Illini history. Weaver, meanwhile, threw four touchdowns and two interceptions in limited time.

Johnson knows the Illinois offense is destined to play second fiddle to its vaunted defense once again, no matter who starts at quarterback. "That's O.K.," he says, "as long as I'm first string."

Meanwhile, the man who is the new leader of that defense, Rice, has no uncertainties about his status. "I was asked recently which opponents had impressed me," Rice says, "and before I even had a chance to answer, Kevin Hardy interrupted and said, 'Man, nobody impresses Simeon-except Simeon.'

"O.K.," Rice continues, "that may be true. But I'm hoping that this year, if somebody else impresses me, he plays offense for us." -JOHN WALTERS

#### THE DATA BOX

Head coach: Lou Tepper Career college record: 18-17-1 Fourth year at Illinois (18-17-1)

1994 RECORD: 7-5

Big Ten record: 4-4 (tied for fifth)

- L Washington State 10-9 (at Chicago)
- W Missouri 42-0
- W Northern Illinois 34-10
- L Purdue 22-16
- W at Ohio State 24-10
- W Iowa 47-7
- L Michigan 19-14
- W at Northwestern 28-7
- W at Minnesota 21-17
- L Penn State 35-31
- L at Wisconsin 19-13
- East Carolina 30-0 (Liberty Bowl)

Final '94 ranking: unranked

Lettermen lost: 25 Lettermen returning: 33 Returning starters, offense: 6 Returning starters, defense: 6

**KEY GAMES:** Sept. 2 Michigan Sept. 16 Arizona Nov. 11 at Ohio State





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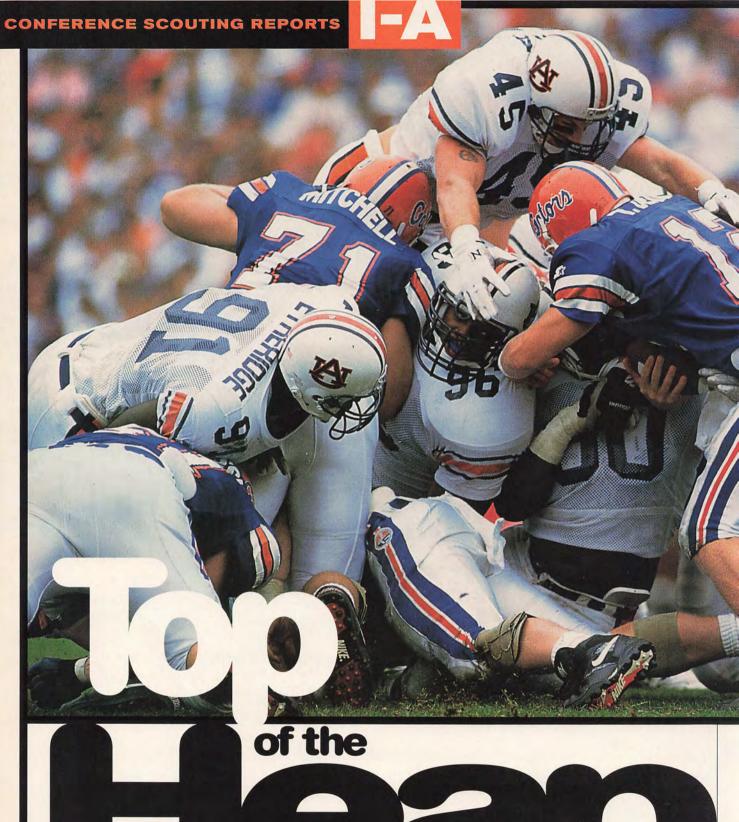
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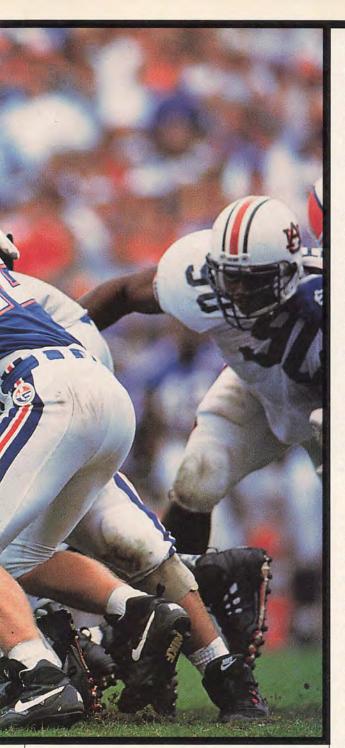
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WANT TO WIN A NATIONAL TITLE?

DON'T PLAY IN THE SEC, BY FAR THE

TOUGHEST CONFERENCE IN THE LAND

What separates the University of Florida from Florida State and Miami? National championship rings and national exposure for starters. Between them, the Seminoles and the Hurricanes have claimed four of the last 10 national titles and seen more airtime than Beano Cook. But if you want to know what truly sets the Gators apart from their in-state brethren, look no further than the conference schedule of each school.

If you were trying to find the ideal Sunshine State vacation, you could do worse than hitch up with Miami for its Big East itinerary, an inviting stretch of overmatched opponents and guaranteed W's; since the Hurricanes joined the league in 1991, they have taken 19 of 20 Big East

games. Even more relaxing is the Atlantic Coast Conference schedule of Florida State. Last fall the Seminoles, who have gone 24–0 since entering the ACC in '92, trailed a league opponent in the second half for all of four minutes. So yawning is the gap between them and the rest of the ACC that this is what passed for the league's showdown last fall: Florida State 59, Duke 20.

But the Gators' affiliation with the best conference in the nation, the SEC, yields

# Final Top 10 finishes (AP poll), by conference, during the 1990s SEC 11 Independents 8 Big Ten 7 ACC 5 Big East\*\* 5 Pac-10 5 Big Eight 4 SWC 4 WAC 1

Dixie Dominance

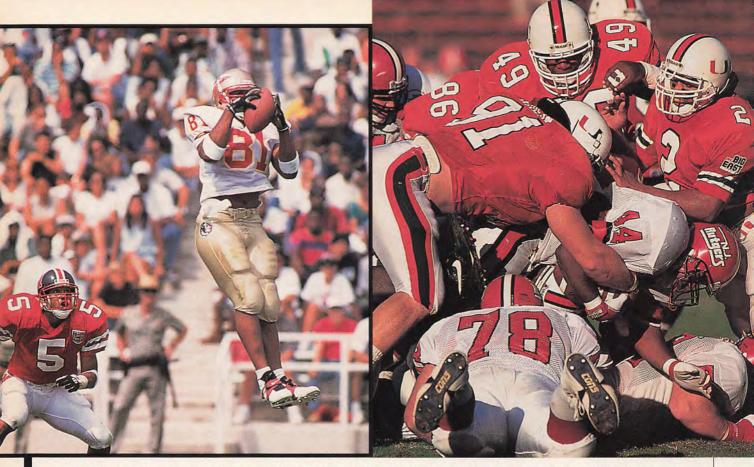
 Includes Florida State, Miami and Penn State before conference affiliation
 Began play in 1991.

few such days at the beach. To win the championship, an SEC team must slog through eight games so demanding that even the relative softies can jump up and bite at any time (two years ago, for example, LSU defeated unbeaten Alabama). Win the division and what you get is a trip to the SEC championship, a bowl game unto itself, a game you have to win merely to stay in the hunt for the national title come Jan. 2. "When you play eight conference games or, in our case the last couple of years, nine," says Gator coach Steve Spurrier, "by the time you get to the SEC championship, you feel like you've already put in a full season."

Which bears directly on the matter of championship rings. Because the Hurricanes and the Seminoles are unlikely to be sidetracked by any of their conference cream puffs, they can afford to enter each season with their eyes trained far down the road, angling to add to their jewelry collections. "You play for Miami or Florida State, you play for the big prize," said Hurricane

BY CHRISTIAN STONE

SEC powers like Auburn and Florida can knock each other out.



Florida State towers over the competition in the ACC, and Miami gets to bully the weaklings of the Big East.

linebacker Ray Lewis last fall. "The national championship."

The Gators, meanwhile, must first run the SEC obstacle course even to begin talking about a No. 1 finish. Since the start of the 1993 season, Florida has had an .875 winning percentage in the SEC and has won the last two championship games. Yet because of two losses to conference foe Auburn, the Gators have wound up no higher than fifth in the country. In fact, they have finished higher than third in their own state only once in the last five years, while Florida State and Miami were divvying up two national titles. "We don't have the luxury of taking our conference schedule for granted," Spurrier says. "No SEC team does. Not when you play in the toughest conference in the country."

So given the hazards of the rugged SEC, just what are the

privileges of membership? The first is that the conference occupies a special place in the pollsters' hearts (*chart, page 117*). Last fall alone, the SEC finished with three of the top nine teams in the country and five of the Top 25. It sent five teams to bowl games and would have sent a sixth had Auburn not been serving a two-year probation for recruiting violations.

How to explain the league's reputation? Tradition, that favorite buzzword of the Deep South, offers one answer. "We win two games, some bowl will invite us," Bear Bryant once quipped. Yet to cite tradition alone invites the tired, unfair stereotype that the SEC has become smug with its winning ways, content to live off the past glories of coaching icons like Bryant, Wally Butts and General Neyland. Says Kentucky coach Bill Curry, "People see the SEC as

### SOUTHERN COMFORT

In the 1990s the SEC has clearly been the preeminent conference in the nation. Here's how each league has fared in its nonconference games during this span.

	Conf.	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	Total	Win Pct.
	SEC	23-15-1	28-8	25-8	26-7-1	24-8-1	126-46-3	.729
	ACC	17-7	15-9-1	14-7-1	15-10	13-8-1	74-41-3	.640
	Pac-10	17-14	16-13	21-8-1	21-9	16-12-2	91-56-3	.617
1	Big East		28-21	22-19-2	20-9-1	20-12	90-61-3	.594
	Big Eight	17-12-1	14-13-1	16-11	17-11-1	20-10-1	84-57-4	.593
	Big Ten	14-13-1	16-12-1	13-17-1	22-10	23-10-1	88-62-4	.584
	swc	14-10	15-12	15-14-1	11-18-2	17-15	72-69-3	.510
1	WAC	15-15	13-17-1	18-15-1	11-17	20-13-1	77-77-3	.500
	MAC	6-13-1	11-14	9-13-2	4-17	4-14-1	34-71-4	.330
	Big West	5-20-1	6-21-1	8-17	6-32-1	7-31	32-121-3	.215

being hidebound by its tradition. That's an incorrect assumption. Rich in tradition and history? Yes. Unchanging and unwilling to adapt? Definitely not."

Indeed, it is less its tradition than its malleability that has sustained the SEC's formidable reputation. Often chastised for its guileless devotion to such an archaic practice as smash-mouth, defense-first football, the league appears sufficiently prepared for the next millennium. To wit: In recent years its schools have imported some of the nation's most creative offensive minds. That group includes Spurrier and his Fun 'N' Gun attack; South Carolina coach Brad Scott, previously the architect of Florida State's fast break; Auburn coach Terry Bowden, one of the nation's preeminent play-callers; and Alabama offensive coordinator Homer Smith. It is Smith, you might recall, who has used such unorthodox teaching methods as having policemen fire blanks into the air to demonstrate the type of explosiveness he wants from his offensive linemen. "College football has changed," says Georgia coach Ray Goff. "And it's changed in the South, too. To stay the best conference in the country, we have to look forward. And I think we've done that."

Nothing better demonstrates this willingness to go forward than the SEC's decision in 1992 to split into a two-division, 12-team super-

Spurrier (right) knows the downs and ups of SEC life.



conference—the first of its kind—a savvy stroke that cemented the SEC's status as the nation's premier league. With its crown jewel of a championship game and a television contract with CBS that begins in '96, the SEC boasts a national profile matched by no other football conference. Increased exposure has enabled SEC schools to expand their recruiting bases to include once forbidden grounds like South Florida and the Northeast; last year Tennessee's top-rated recruiting class included blue-chippers from such distant parts as New Jersey, Maryland and Oklahoma. And only last February, Bowden signed eight players from Florida, including the state's top prospect, defensive back Martavius Houston.

Whereas other conferences once looked disapprovingly on the SEC's decision to expand, they are now, not surprisingly, starting



to follow its lead. The WAC, which will increase its membership from 10 to 16 next season, will introduce its own title game in '96. And the Big Eight, which will become the Big 12 next season, has also begun examining the possibility of a conference championship game.

But there's always this rub: Belonging to a superconference assures a welcome stream of

new revenue and an enhanced national profile, but it remains a drag on any school that eyes the big prize. Since 1981 no league has produced more Top 10 teams than the SEC. Remarkably, during that same period the league has also produced no more champions than the WAC has (one). "Expansion and the championship game brought a lot of attention to the league," says Alabama coach Gene Stallings. "It also made it that much harder for any team in the league to win a national championship."

It has also caused Spurrier something of an identity crisis. With the Fun 'N' Gun and all its swagger, Florida has more closely resembled its intrastate rivals than its SEC cronies. For most of his five years in Gainesville, Spurrier has taken potshot after potshot at the Seminoles, giving the distinct impression that he deems Florida State the most important measuring stick for his own program.

And yet during the past off-season, there was Spurrier barnstorming through the Sunshine State, ditching his Free Shoes University shtick from the previous summer and sounding instead very much like, well, like an SEC coach. He spoke about getting kids who came from good mamas and daddies and even sang a few paeans to the best conference in the country. "My little son Scotty came home from school with a prayer about a year ago," Spurrier recited at every stop, "and it goes like this: 'The Lord's been good to me, and I thank the Lord for giving me the things I need—the rain, the sun and the apple seeds.' Well, we changed that prayer around a little bit now, and it goes like this: 'The Lord's been good to me, and so I thank the Lord for giving me all the things I need—the rain and the sun and the SEC.'"



## SEC

#### RANKINGS

#### **EASTERN DIVISION**

- 1. Florida
- 2. Tennessee
- 3. South Carolina
- 4. Georgia
- 5. Vanderbilt
- 6. Kentucky

#### WESTERN DIVISION

- 1. Auburn
- 2. Alabama
- 3. Mississippi State
- 4. Mississippi
- 5. LSU
- 6. Arkansas

It's not easy being a coach in the SEC, especially if your team is not one of the traditional powerhouses. The league's upper echelon—Auburn (page 62), Florida (page 74), Tennessee (page 82) and Alabama (page 90)—is harder to crack than a CIA code. Yet expectations for all teams are so high that woe be unto the SEC coach who goes more than a year, two at the most, without a winning season and a trip to the Weedeater Ho-Hum Irrelevant Holiday Bowl Classic.

The only coaches among the league's bottom eight teams with any comfort zone are Kentucky's Bill Curry, Mississippi State's Jackie Sherrill and Brad Scott at South Carolina (page 112). Georgia's Ray Goff is in a win-or-else situation. LSU was rejected by its top choice for a new coach (Pat Sullivan) before hiring Gerry DiNardo, who came from Vanderbilt, of all places. The honeymoon is over for third-year coach Danny Ford at Arkansas, and few can envy the positions the new

bosses at Ole Miss and Vandy—Tommy Tuberville and Rod Dowhower, respectively—find themselves in.

#### EAST

Realizing that his job is at stake, Goff has mandated a new look on both sides of the ball at **Georgia**. New defensive coordinator Joe Kines has installed a 4–3 defense that should showcase the talent of senior linebacker Randall Godfrey and senior end Phillip Daniels. On offense, the Dogs will have a more balanced attack—but that's only because quarterback Eric Zeier has gone to the NFL.

The new quarterback, Mike Bobo, has skilled wideouts Brice Hunter, a senior, and Juan Daniels, a junior, to work with. Junior scatback Hines Ward will create problems for defenses, as will junior Robert Edwards, who is switching from cornerback to tailback.

At **Vanderbilt**, Dowhower has installed a pro-style offense. This means new challenges for quarterbacks Ronnie Gordon and Damian Allen, who must prove they can throw, and junior tailback Jermaine Johnson, who has never caught a pass in college. If Johnson can catch, he'll be tough to defend: He runs a 4.29 40.

Dowhower has put the defense in the hands of new coordinator Woody Widenhofer. He inherits a squad with 10 starters returning, including two underrated linemen, junior Brian Boykin and senior James Manley.

The 1–10 record **Kentucky** had doesn't accurately reflect how bad the situation was in 1994. Really. Nevertheless, athletic director C.M. Newton refused to fire Curry, whose teams haven't had a winning record in his five seasons in Lexington.

Newton probably just postponed the

inevitable, unless new offensive coordinator Elliot Uzelac turns out to be a miracle worker. Junior tailback Moe Williams and sophomore wide receiver Kio Sanford are two talented players who are trapped in a hopeless situation.

#### WEST

Mississippi State will be happy to duplicate last season's 8–4 record, considering its schedule: the Bulldogs play Tennessee, Baylor, Auburn and Alabama on the road. No matter whom State plays, its opposition will now find a quicker team on both sides of the ball.

After spring practice Sherrill said of his offensive skill players, "It's going to be hard to catch some of those guys in the open field." The backs will be Keffer McGee and Robert Isaac, a couple of shifty runners, while senior wide receiver Eric Moulds is a burner.

Defensively, Sherrill has switched from the 3–4 to the 4–3. The new alignment should showcase senior end Larry Williams, State's defensive MVP in the Peach Bowl, and senior Walt Harris, who moves from cornerback to free safety.

Mississippi fans hope that Tuberville can back up his words. "We're going to win big, and it's not going to take too long," Tuberville told a booster group over the summer. "Everybody is laughing across the state. I know the boys over at State are laughing, and at Alabama, but we will win a national championship here. I promise you that."



Moulds is a Bulldog who's a greyhound.





Vandy tailback Johnson must develop as a receiver for the Commodores to get past the beasts of the SEC East.

Tuberville's No. 1 priority this season will be his defense. Senior Michael Lowery, who was moved to linebacker after three years at strong safety, is one of only two returning starters. To shore up the unit, Tuberville has moved sophomore Walker Jones from receiver to strong safety, junior David Evans from offensive guard to defensive tackle and senior Renard Brown from running back to defensive end.

Under new offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone, the Rebs should operate from the shotgun more often. They have also added a U-back—a combination of flanker, tight end and running back—that will be manned, at least initially, by sophomore Moine Nicholson.

**LSU** quarterback Jamie Howard has high hopes for the Tigers, prompting him to delay a pro baseball career (he was a No. 2 draft pick by the Atlanta Braves) to return for his senior season.

DiNardo plans to use an offense that showcases Howard, senior tailback Robert Toomer and junior wide receiver Eddie Kennison. On defense, the players to watch are senior end Gabe Northern, junior linebacker Mike Calais and senior tackle Pete Ballis. During spring practice at **Arkansas**, Ford said, "We've been through some tough times, but there are better days ahead." He didn't, however, say when those days might arrive.

This season new defensive coordinator Joe Lee Dunn will employ a blitzing scheme. Dunn's best players are senior ends Marcus Adair and Steven Conley, who both had seven sacks last season.

On offense, Ford is sticking with an outmoded option attack. It seems the team's fate won't change until Ford changes—or the school gets a new coach.

—WILLIAM F. REED



### BIGTEN

#### RANKINGS

- 1. Penn State
- 2. Michigan
- 3. Ohio State
- 4. Illinois
- 5. Wisconsin
- 6. Purdue
- 7. Michigan State
- 8. lowa
- 9. Indiana
- 10. Minnesota
- 11. Northwestern

When Newt Gingrich was elected Speaker of the House in December, one of his first acts was to call Penn State coach Joe Paterno for advice on how to gracefully replace the old guard on the Hill with fresher blood. Gingrich was seeking Paterno's counsel because of the way the coach deftly rotates in his underclassmen each year, but he could also have been asking because of the masterful way Penn State (page 76) has supplanted the old bully on the Big Ten block, Michigan (page 93).

Before the Nittany Lions entered the conference, in 1993, the Wolverines had won or shared the Big Ten title for five consecutive years. While Michigan has hardly disappeared, Penn State's presence has made the entire conference better: Last season the Big Ten had a record nine 1,000-yard rushers, its 27-11-1 nonconference mark was its best in nine years, and its 4–1 bowl record set a new standard. "With Penn State, the Big Ten is now one of the toughest conferences," says Wolverine junior linebacker Rob Swett. "The prestige of the Big Ten carries more weight."

But don't expect Penn State and Michigan to completely dominate the conference race this season. Ohio State (page 111) and Illinois (page 114) both have the talent to make a run for the roses, and several long shots could emerge from the pack.

Wisconsin head coach Barry Alvarez feels as if he has an assistant coach out on the field in senior quarterback Darrell Bevell. "If you stand behind the huddle in practice, you see his control of the team," Alvarez says. "You see 10 other players with an awful lot of confidence in him."

Maybe they're just respecting their elder. Bevell, 25, went on a two-year Mormon mission to Cleveland after transferring to Madison from Northern Arizona as a freshman. He already owns 16 school passing records.

The Badgers' rebuilt offensive line must protect Bevell long enough for him to get the ball downfield—way downfield—to sophomore wideout Tony Simmons. Last year Simmons averaged 26.7 yards per catch, and eight of his 22 receptions went for scores. But if Alvarez can't adequately replace the entire defensive backfield as well as the school's alltime sack leader, Mike Thompson, the Badger defense will be allowing as many long balls as the offense generates.

Meanwhile, **Purdue**, the Big Ten's cradle of quarterbacks, is grounding its aerial attack in favor of its senior backfield. Fullback Mike Alstott and tailback Corey Rogers may make the fans in Lafayette, Ind., momentarily forget Jim Everett, Bob Griese, Len Dawson, et al.—especially if they lead the Boilermakers to their first bowl since the Peach in 1984.

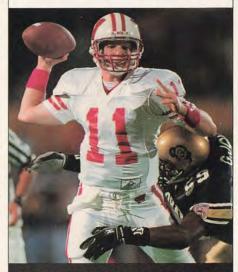
Alstott lived a fullback's dream last season, carrying the ball 202 times and

amassing 1,188 yards. Rogers gained 764 yards behind Alstott's blocks. The Purdue offense, with eight starters returning, will be wise to keep the ball on the ground and its own defense—to which eight starters return—off the field. Purdue ranked 105th out of 107 teams in total defense last year, giving up 471 yards and 31.5 points per game. And that was without Penn State on the schedule.

Expect improvement, not miracles, from a **Michigan State** defense that has finished eighth in the Big Ten for four straight years. Progress for the Spartans will be the design of coach Nick Saban, a former Spartan and Cleveland Brown defensive coordinator. Saban, whose 1994 Browns led the NFL with 12.8 points allowed per game, returns to East Lansing after seven years in the pros. Senior cornerback Demetrice Martin, who had seven interceptions last season, should benefit from the hopped-up pass rush in Saban's 4–3 scheme.

Offensively, the Spartans' skill players will have to keep foes guessing because the O-line will have trouble holding its own up front. Senior quarterback Tony Banks is the Big Ten's leading returning passer and has a couple of deep threats in junior receivers Nigea Carter and Derrick Mason. Fullback Scott Greene, who averaged 5.5 yards per carry, should get the ball more often as the Spartans try to mix up the attack.

Last year Iowa coach Hayden Fry let



Bevell's the boss for the Badgers.





Minnesota will have to rely on its ground game more than ever, meaning Darkins (44) will be the go-to Gopher.

it fly with nine different Hawkeyes attempting passes. The best of the bunch was freshman quarterback Matt Sherman, who connected on 42 of 59 attempts for 736 yards. Out most of the year with a broken foot, Sherman started the last two games and directed the Hawkeyes to wins over Northwestern (49–13) and Minnesota (49–42). With a healthy Sherman and running backs Sedrick Shaw, a junior, and Tavian Banks, a sophomore, Iowa will have no trouble putting points on the board.

Indiana tailback Alex Smith (following

page) took the Big Ten by surprise last season, rushing for 1,475 yards. With defenses stacked against him, Smith may find the holes scarcer this year. That means the Hoosiers will have to improve their passing game, the Big Ten's worst in 1994. With a suspect defense as well, junior quarterback Chris Dittoe must step up or Indiana may find itself with a ditto of its '94 record: 6–5.

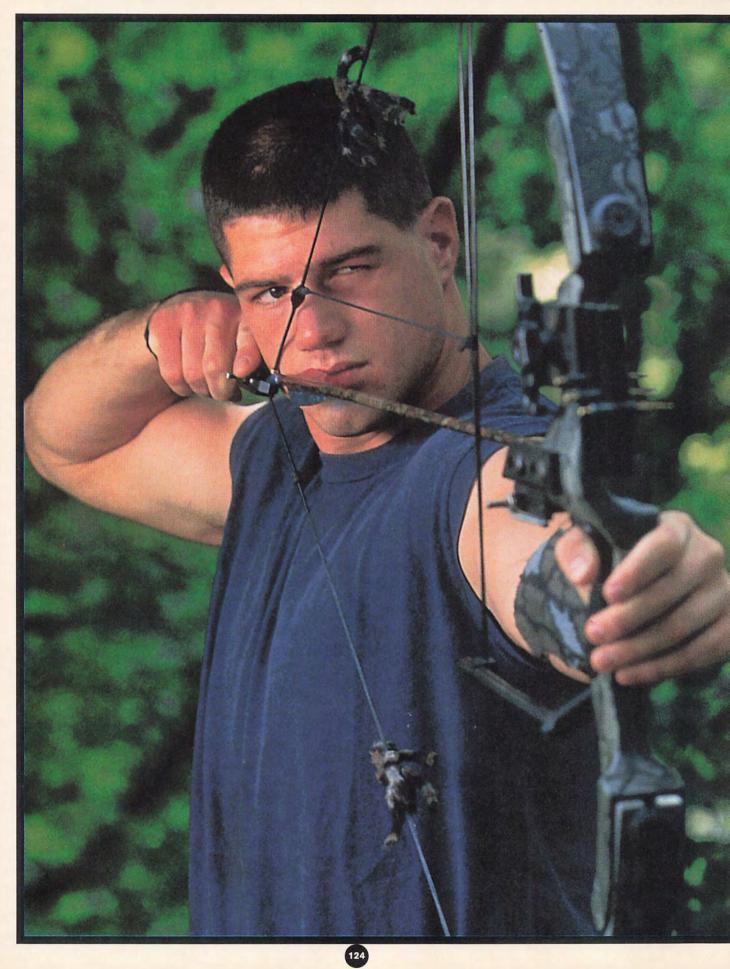
If **Minnesota** senior tailback Chris Darkins thought he saw the ball a lot last year, he ain't seen nothing yet. The 6'1", 215-pound Darkins, who gained 1,443 yards last season, had his number called a

conference-leading 277 times even though the Golden Gophers had the Big Ten's third-best passing game. This fall, with two unproven quarterbacks in Cory Sauter and Jason Murdock, Darkins could get a Salaam-ian 300 carries. Too bad the Heisman almost never goes to a player on a losing team.

Did someone say losing team?

Northwestern hasn't had a winning season since 1971, and with nearly 70% of last year's rushing and receiving yards graduated, the Wildcats are lucky their best player is all-conference punter Paul Burton. Did someone say MAC?

—J.B. MORRIS



## Der Hiller

INDIANA TAILBACK SENSATION

ALEX SMITH IS DRIVEN BY HIS

PASSIONS FOR HUNTING AND

FOOTBALL-AND A NEED TO PUT

PERSONAL TRAGEDY BEHIND HIM

BY JOHN WALTERS

After dinner. The October sun is in retreat. Alex Smith has practiced, showered, changed into jeans. His Indiana teammates linger over training-table fare in the athletic dining hall, but he is gone. Back to Memorial Stadium. More practice. "Eye shot," he calls.

The mealtime stragglers emerge from a stadium tunnel and, glancing up, stop to stare. Atop the end zone bleachers, 20 rows up, a muscular figure with a black buzz cut is frozen in an archer's stance. In his hands is a compound bow, and in his sights, 20 yards away in the grassy glade that lies beyond the stands, a deer decoy. Smith's arms are spread wide, the sun disappearing fast behind him as the arrow nestles alongside his right cheek.

"Eye shot," he repeats, and then fires. The arrow strikes its target. Its shaft quivers in the decoy's eye. Alex Smith loads another arrow.

The complete, unabridged list of running backs who, in the long and storied history of Division I football, have rushed for more yards as freshmen than Smith did in 1994 is as follows:

- 1) Herschel Walker, Georgia, 1980;
- 2) Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh, 1973.

From the tailback spot in the Hoosiers' I formation, Smith gained 1,475 yards on 265 carries as a redshirt freshman. (Walker gained 1,616 on 274 carries; Dorsett amassed 1,586 yards on 288 carries.) In 1980 Walker finished third in the balloting for the Heisman Trophy. Last fall Smith received one third-place vote.

In a year when another redshirt frosh in the state, Ron Powlus of Notre Dame, was cast as a "legend" on national TV while attempting his first collegiate pass, a 6 1", 205-pound 19-year-old from Brookville, Ind., who was shattering record

Even on game day, the woods near Brookville have lured Smith.

OD ROSENBERG (SMITH WITH FANS)

after record, attracted little more notice than did the words on the back of his jersey: A. SMITH. And that anonymity does not shock anybody associated with the Hoosier football program who knows him—because none of them really do.

"He doesn't talk at all," says running backs coach Buck Suhr. "He just doesn't visit much. He's not a visit kind of guy."

"He's very, very independent," says offensive coordinator George Belu.

"Everybody on the team really likes Alex," says junior fullback Steve Lee. "But I can't think of anybody who hangs out with him."

"Almost no one on the team knows this—I'm sure Coach Mal [head coach Bill Mallory] doesn't," says sports information director Kit Klingelhoffer. "Last fall Alex arranged his schedule so that he had no classes on Fridays. He'd drive home two hours on Thursday night so that he could hunt deer on Friday morning. Then he'd return just in time for Friday's pregame walk-through."

"My redshirt year," Smith says, "when I wasn't on the traveling squad, I'd be back in Brookville hunting on Saturday mornings of road games, too."

Eye shot, I-back. Deer season, football season. "I love them both," Smith says. "I'd never let one make me give up the

other." Carolyn Smith has her own theory about her son's twin passions, the ones he is bent on mastering with single-minded determination in his solitary way. "Alex is motivated," she says, "to please his dad."

It is dawn, before breakfast. Alex Smith crouches at the edge of his driveway in Goshen, Ohio. "Ready. Set. HUT!" cries his mother.

Off he dashes. Up Buckboard Lane, then left on Entrance Drive until he reaches the stop sign where the subdivision begins. He slaps the sign, then reverses direction. "Dig, To-it, dig! You're behind pace," yells his older sister, Tina, giving him his time—albeit a slower one than he is actually running—as he braces right, back onto Buckboard. "Do it, To-it!" implores Carolyn as her son draws near. "Four fifty-three, 4:54! Great job!"

Alex, a.k.a. To-it (taken from the Mountain Dew ad), has just run nine tenths of a mile. As he does every morning. And many an evening. He is seven years old.

Carolyn Nicolay was 15 when she went to an antiques auction in Lebanon, Ohio, and discovered that she was up for bid. "There's a good-looking boy who'd like to meet you," barked the auc-



Budding talent at six and recordsetting freshman in '94, Smith has gained acclaim only in Hoosierland.



tioneer, who happened to be sharing the stage with the good-looking boy's mother. Two years later, in 1965, Carolyn married Floyd Smith. Nine years later the last of their three children was born.

"We had never really encouraged our first two children [Tina and a son, Nic] to strike out and try things," says Carolyn, who, like her husband, was never athletically inclined. "We wanted to be different with Alex. And he was always such a fierce competitor. His first carry ever in a game—it was so cute—he was only six and playing fullback. The play was to the tailback, but Alex stole the ball and went 40 yards for a touchdown."

Smith was also six when Louisa Rice, a gym teacher and family friend, informed his mom that her own eight-year-old son did 50 push-ups each night. Says Carolyn, "I figured, Shoot, Alex is tougher than he is."

So his parents challenged him to do 100 push-ups. In a row. Every single night. And if his spine ever arched too high or sagged too low, he had to start all over.

"But he'd never do push-ups unless we were watching," says Carolyn. "He'd do them in our bedroom. We'd keep a chart."

"My parents would say, 'Let's see how many you can do tonight,'" Alex recalls. "And a hundred was the minimum. I did

200 all the time, like if I was trying real hard.

"And then one night—I can't remember when—I just did 400. I just wanted to see how many I could do. And I got to 400. I was shaking and everything."

"He gets that from his dad," says Carolyn. "An addicted workaholic. After work and on weekends when these kids were growing up, Floyd always had a project for himself. That meant the boys always had a project too."

Carolyn supervised Alex in his simplest tasks, his daily regimen. But Floyd presented him with the big challenges. He raised the stakes. There was the spring, back in Goshen, when he decided to build a deck for the swimming pool. His sons, 11 and nine years old, were assigned to collect and haul dirt, five wheelbarrows full each, from the nearby woods to the backyard. Every day.

"Alex tackled that task first thing in the morning," says his mom. "Most days he probably finished before Floyd even arrived at work."

"More than anybody I know, Alex loves a challenge," says Indiana assistant strength coach Dave Schlagel, whose deer decoy Smith frequently blinds with his arrows. "When you hunt deer, your target is always just below and behind the left shoul-



der: the heart. But that's too easy for Alex. So when we practice, he aims for the eye."

Football practice has ended, but the steady drizzle continues. Alex is a running back and linebacker for the pee wee Goshen Warriors, who have not lost—have not been scored upon—in two years. Tonight, when the team ran its customary postpractice lap around the field, he finished second.

"Alex, there's nobody who can beat you if you want to win," says Carolyn. "Now get back out there and give me two laps."

Her son returns to the gridiron. Some of his teammates—and their parents—have not departed from the field yet.

"Good job, To-it, that's the way," she says when he finishes. Climbing into the red Ford Pinto wagon, mother and son head home. Alex Smith is nine years old.

Brookville is a lakeside city of 3,000 in southeastern Indiana, 45 miles northwest of Cincinnati. Three signs proclaiming it HOME OF ALEX SMITH dot the roadsides. "Everybody hunts; most everyone owns a gun," Smith says. "It's just natural." He began hunting when he was 13, just after his family moved here from Goshen. He owns a shotgun, two rifles and three pistols now, as well as a bow and three coonhounds.

Unabashedly, Smith is small-town. He likes to eat at places where he can get a "cold Coke in a can, no ice" and order whatever is pictured on the front of the menu. On May 25 he plans to marry his high school sweetheart. He'll vow to love Indiana senior Kristin Urban for better or for worse, though he acknowledges that part of the better is the fact that her granddad owns 180 acres of prime hunting grounds outside Brookville.

During Smith's first semester in Bloomington, someone broke into his truck and stole all his books. He had failed—not forgotten—to lock the doors of his '90 Ford Ranger. "When I asked him why he didn't lock them," recalls Mallory, "he said, 'Coach, where I come from your truck is sacred.'"

Until he sold it in July, Smith still didn't lock that truck. That may be one of two small-town qualities, or both: stubbornness or optimism. He's a young man who cannot pass a convenience store without proclaiming that he'll win the lottery. "He's sure of it," says Urban, an education major. "He tells everyone he knows."

"He says he's going to buy Franklin County and turn it all into hunting grounds," says Suhr. "Probably just live in a double-wide trailer."

"No," corrects Smith. "I need lots of property. Anything less than 30 acres is a postage stamp. And a log house. Why? I just like 'em. We used to live in a log house...." Then he stops. The subject of the log house always brings him up short.

Thirty-nine acres. A driveway that climbs a hill nearly three quarters of a mile. Two years have passed since the Smiths purchased the lot outside Brookville, in Franklin County, a lot on which they're building a log house. The father conscripts his younger son to assist in the construction of a fireplace. No bricks. Just creek rocks gathered from the property. Mixing the mortar themselves. Putting the stones into place.

All summer, and after school and on weekends in the fall, the father and his son build the fireplace and chimney. And they talk.

"Freshman track next spring," says the father. "Betcha can't run the hundred meters in under 11 seconds."

"Betcha I can," says the son. "Remember last spring? You bet me a motorcycle I couldn't high-jump six feet. What'd I do?"

"Six-two," the father concedes. He scales the chimney wall with his eyes. Notes the solid job he has done with his son. "This will be here long after I'm gone," he says.

Alex Smith is 14 years old.

Smith is terse on the topic of his father's death. "It was a gunshot wound to the head," he states, and then falls silent.

It was January of his freshman year at Franklin County High.



Carolyn arrived home, at the base of the family's long driveway, and discovered the house on fire. Inside, her husband lay mortally wounded from a single bullet. ("Everybody hunts; most everyone owns a gun....") The Indiana State Police, who investigated the fatality, declared it an unsolved murder;

the Smiths have always termed Floyd's death a suicide.

"There were never any indications," says Carolyn. "Twentyfive years of a faithful, happy marriage. No drugs or alcohol. But Floyd just believed he had more problems than anyone else.

He didn't, of course, but to him it seemed so."

The Smiths say that he set the house afire, then took his life. Contrasted against a snow-covered hillside, the flames arced spectacularly. The inferno razed the log house. Except for one thing. The chimney made from creek rocks and mortar remained.

Carolyn now lives in Miamitown, Ohio, 20 miles south of Brookville, and designs floor displays for a furniture store in Florence, Ky. She is single but is "seeing a fella," as she puts it. "He went to a party this spring—remember, this is a rural area we live in—and told a few people that he was dating the mother of Alex Smith, the IU tailback," she says. "And someone said, 'You're dating a black woman?"







Though something of an enigma to his teammates, Smith lets Carolyn (far left), Kristin and Ace get close.

As a white running back successfully carrying his high school glory onto college turf, Smith is an anomaly. In the past 15 years there have been more Division I-A tailbacks *named* White (Charles of Southern Cal and Lorenzo of Michigan State) to finish among the top five in rushing than there have been tailbacks who *are* white (Travis Sims of Hawaii).

In 1992 Smith was named Indiana's inaugural Mr. Football after rushing for a state-record 3,024 yards for Franklin County High that season. Against Jennings County in the playoffs, he had 417 yards and seven touchdowns. Who knows how many yards he might have gained in that game, how many TDs he might have scored, had he played more than one down in the second half?

Does it seem far-fetched to suggest that a white running back could be the victim of reverse discrimination? And yet.... The recruiters from Miami of Ohio asked Smith how he felt about "playing some linebacker for us," and though he did not say so at the time, the state of Indiana's high school career leader in rushing yards (6,895) remembers feeling "pretty offended." Linebacker! At Miami of *Ohio*! Where there had been only one 1,000-yard rusher in the previous six seasons!

"We played Miami our second game last year," says Smith. "I told Coach Mallory about them recruiting me."

"They must think I'm pretty stupid," responded Mallory, "starting a linebacker at tailback."

Against the Redskins, Mallory questioned his wisdom 26 times in the first half alone. And Smith was unstoppable, gaining 157 yards that half and 191 for the game. On that afternoon Miami could have used a linebacker like Alex Smith.

"It's simple," says Suhr. "Alex is really fast. Really fast. And he runs the ball with great urgency, which I like. Plus, he's the strongest tailback we've had in the last five years. He's a manly kid."

The last white tailback to lead the nation in rushing was Utah State's Louie Giammona in 1974. "Black athletes have taken charge of the skill positions in the last 20 years," says Mallory. "But that doesn't mean a white athlete can't do it. You don't close the door to a white individual."

Smith has his own theory on this subject, based not on race but rather on environment, which, he professes, explains it all: the football, the hunting, the unbridled energy. "It's simple," he says. "I just can't stand to be inside."

An outdoorsman. Examine the evidence. Smith's trio of 200-yard outings last fall neatly coincided with the Hoosiers' three natural-grass games—at Kentucky (221 yards), at Iowa (232) and at Purdue (245). His worst game by far, when he stumbled for 22 yards on 16 carries at Minnesota, occurred inside the Metrodome.

"This year will be the real test," he jokes, referring to the natural-turf contests at Penn State and Ohio State. "If the streak survives that, they'll tear up the artificial turf at Memorial next summer."

By rights, he and southern Indiana rocker John Mellencamp, the bard of contemporary Hoosierdom, should be kindred spirits. Mellencamp has written song after song—Jack and Diane, Small Town, Real Life—whose lyrics seem to be pulled from the pages of Smith's bio. And Mellencamp is a football fan, his financial contributions providing a huge boon to the Hoosiers' program.

Smith smiles at the suggestion. "Yes, but have you noticed the structure being built just north of the stadium?" he inquires. "The John Mellencamp *indoor* practice facility?"

"Heeeere, Ace! C'mon, Ace! Hee-ah hee-ah!"

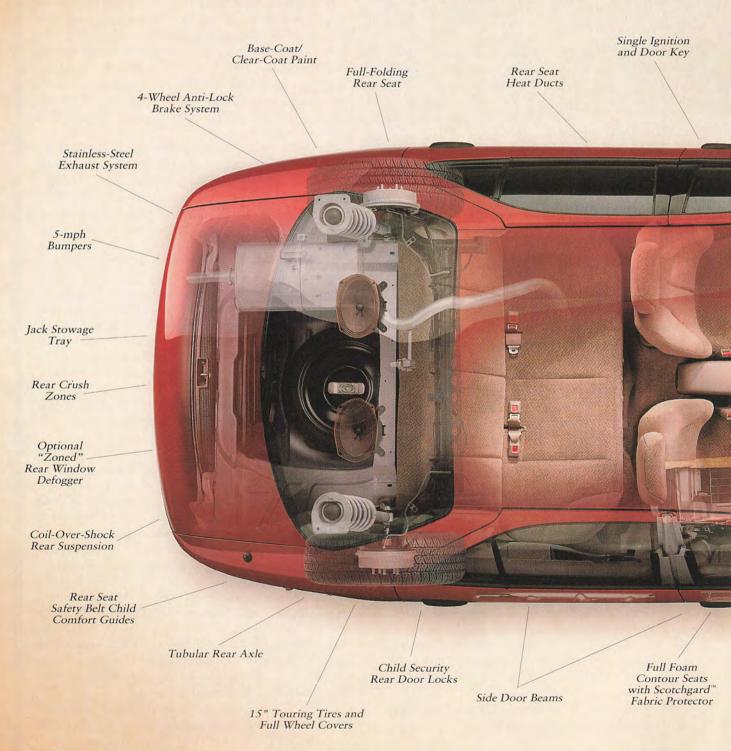
After midnight, long after midnight. Smith and his redbone, Ace, roam an expanse of woods outside Bloomington. It is a rainy May night, and he is tracking raccoons, just for practice, since hunting season is months away. He could be sleeping at this moment, not to mention dry and indoors. And now Ace has gotten lost.

"You have hot-nosed dogs and cold-nosed dogs," explains Smith. "Ace is a cold-nosed dog. He only picks up scents that are fresh, and when he does, he'll follow it until eventually he closes in on the coon, and it gets scared and runs up a tree. He won't stop chasing that scent until he trees that coon."

He calls out again, but Ace does not reply with a bark, does not return. An hour passes. "Ace hears me, but he's in his own world right now," Smith says. "That's a coon dog for you. When he's trailing that scent, nothing else matters. It's just his nature."

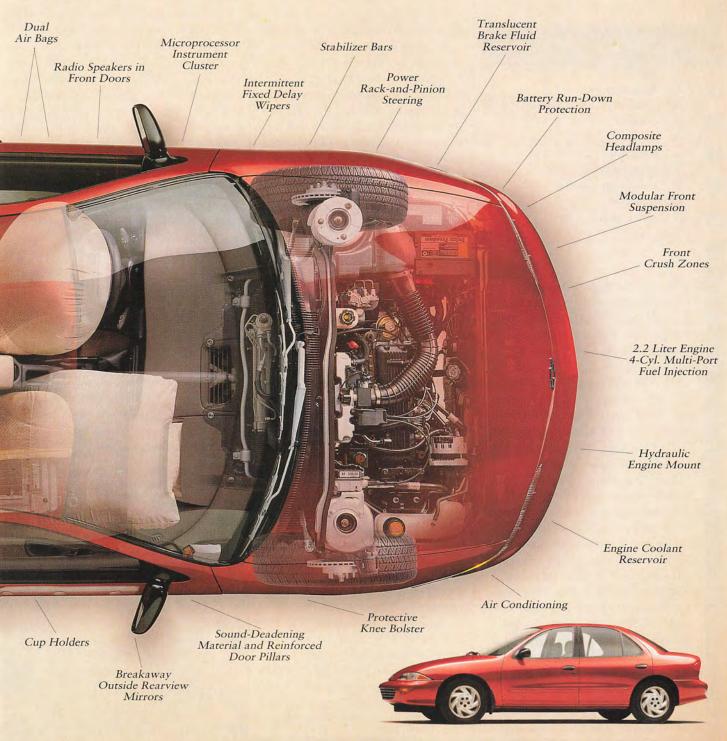
With that, he turns to head back to the truck and leaves Ace to follow his nose. Alex Smith is 20 years old.

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## PAC-10

#### RANKINGS

- 1. USC
- 2. Washington
- 3. Arizona
- 4. Oregon
- 5. UCLA
- 6. California
- 7. Oregon State
- 8. Washington State
- 9. Stanford
- 10. Arizona State

Around the Pac-10, last season was billed as the year of the quarterback. But that expectation yielded more fizzle than sizzle, and the magical run Oregon made to the Rose Bowl eventually stole the headlines. The Ducks, the third team in as many years to go to the granddaddy of 'em all, will most likely pass the title torch this year to USC (page 60) and will be hard-pressed to hold off Washington (page 97) and Arizona (page 109) in the conference.

Former Duck offensive coordinator Mike Bellotti, taking over as coach from Rich Brooks, was smart enough not to tinker too much with success. But Oregon will go with a more vertical passing game to take advantage of new quarterback Tony Graziani's arm. A junior lefthander, Graziani proved his mettle last season when he stepped in for an injured Danny O'Neil (now graduated) and led the key upset of USC. All the Ducks are in place at the skill positions. Senior flanker Cristin McLemore is already Oregon's alltime leader in touchdown receptions, with 20, and junior split end Dameron Ricketts (team-high 42 catches last year) is greased lightning in the open field.

The defense is expected to be as ornery as ever under new coordinator Charlie Waters, the former Dallas Cowboy defensive back. The Ducks have a knockout one-two combo in senior inside linebackers Rich Ruhl and Jeremy Asher. The line is experienced and talented, led by hard-charging senior end Troy Bailey. Senior cornerback Alex Molden is a potential All-America, a suffocating cover man and a forceful run stopper.

With a league-high 18 starters returning, **UCLA** (5–6 overall last year) looks dangerous. But how far the Bruins go may be determined by highly touted junior quarterback Ryan Fien, who takes over for the graduated Wayne Cook. Fien looked shaky in '94 relief appearances, but he has a rocket arm, and in spring ball he displayed a newfound poise and grasp of the offense.

All-America senior flanker Kevin Jordan returns after the second-best receiving season (1,228 yards on 73 catches and seven TDs) in Pac-10 history. Explosive senior tailback Karim Abdul-Jabbar (formerly Sharmon Shah) racked up 1,227 yards last year. Senior left tackle Jonathan Ogden, a 6'8" 315-pounder, anchors one of the country's best offensive lines.

Senior Donnie Edwards may be the nation's finest outside linebacker (106 tackles, 12.5 sacks last year), and he is certainly one of the most interesting. His dreadlocks are now heading into their second season, and as for his wild style of play, Edwards says, "I'm the product of an unresolved Oedipus complex. Football is a way to let out my aggression."

The rug at Memorial Stadium has been replaced by plush grass, but it comes a year late for **California**. The Golden Bears spent most of last fall being pounded into the turf during a disappointing 4–7 season marked by injuries, blunders and on-the-job training for

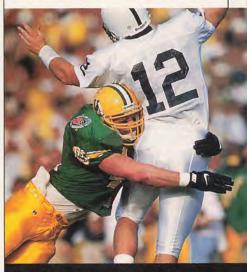
a number of youngsters. But talent abounds, and Cal could be the league's dark horse.

Junior QB Pat Barnes is one of the Pac-10's most exciting players. He is gutsy and creative, with a velvety touch, slick wheels and a commanding presence. Iheanyi Uwaezuoke (56 catches) and junior Na'il Benjamin (45 catches) are a dynamic receiving duo with unforgettable names.

Cal's defense, 13th in the nation last year, could be an overpowering bunch, particularly the line. Last season it accounted for 29.5 of a school-record 40 sacks. Regan Upshaw, a 6'4", 255-pound junior end with 4.67 speed, is a ferocious pass rusher, and he has four talented line mates, particularly super sophomores Andy Jacobs and Brandon Whiting.

Oregon State, 4–7 last year, looks primed for its first winning season since 1970. O.K., it's true the Beavers open up with nonconference cupcakes Idaho, Pacific and North Texas. But Oregon State beat UCLA and Washington State last year, and in four other games it was driving for the potential tying or winning score late in the fourth quarter only to come up short. Thirteen starters are back, and the bench is deeper this year.

Coach Jerry Pettibone has finally decided to give the wishbone offense a rest, and the Beavers will most likely go with a double slot, showcasing four swift pass catchers and Don Shanklin's secret weapon, his right arm. Says Pettibone with a chuckle, "The coaches in this league are going to drop dead when they see us."



QBs have trouble ducking Asher.





The Bruins' success will depend largely on whether Fien emerges as the top-quality quarterback he's touted to be.

Last season the **Washington State** defense was the second best in the nation and carried the Cougars to an 8–4 record and a victory in the Alamo Bowl over Baylor. "The offense was playing not to lose last year," says junior QB Chad Davis. "But the defense isn't there to bail us out now, and we're going to make some things happen." Seven starters return, and Davis is a scrappy QB who will open some eyes.

Graduation gutted the defense, with eight starters leaving. There are some playmakers, however, in senior inside linebacker Chris Hayes and Dwayne Sanders, a 6'7", 255-pound senior end. The genius is out and the drill sergeant is in at **Stanford**. Bill Walsh's three years on the Farm were a disappointment (3-7-1 last year), and in comes no-nonsense Tyrone Willingham. His priorities are to develop a smash-mouth style on both sides of the ball and to strip away the country-club ambience that evolved under Walsh.

Stanford will emphasize the running game this season to take advantage of a skilled offensive line and to offset the graduation of quarterback Steve Stenstrom. The good news for the defense is that nine starters are returning. The bad news is that these are the same guys who gave up

more than 32 points and 404 yards a game.

Arizona State, 3–8 last season, is thin on talent, with the notable exception of junior quarterback Jake (the Snake)
Plummer, who throws a terrific long ball and is a daredevil scrambler and a gritty leader. "I would take a bullet in the head for this team," he says. Junior wideout Keith Poole is Plummer's favorite target. He may be correct in assessing the unpredictable nature of the Pac-10. "Everybody picked Oregon to finish last in '94, and look what happened," Poole says. "So for this year, who knows?"

—ALAN SHIPNUCK

### I-A

## BIGERIT

#### RANKINGS

- 1. Nebraska
- 2. Colorado
- 3. Oklahoma
- 4. Kansas State
- 5. Kansas
- 6. Missouri
- 7. Oklahoma State
- 8. Iowa State

It has come down to one last try for the Little Four in the Big Eight. After 37 years of broken dreams and failed opportunities, the conference have-nots—Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma State and Iowa State—have one final season to win a Big Eight title outright. Next year the Big Eight will become the Big 12, adding Baylor, Texas, Texas A & M and Texas Tech, and split into regional divisions. The question in 1995 is, Will any of the traditional patsies from the lower pack climb out of the conference pit and into its pantheon?

Perhaps if pigs learn to fly. After all, what are the chances of one of these teams' soaring past rebounding Oklahoma (page 91) and fully revived Kansas State (page 108), not to mention Nebraska (page 66) and Colorado (page 80)? If any team can rise up, though, it is Kansas. As recently as 1992, when the Jayhawks defeated Brigham Young 23-20 in the Aloha Bowl and finished the season No. 22 in the country, this program seemed to be on the brink of national prominence. But that perception was quickly shattered on a sultry summer afternoon in the New Jersey Meadowlands when Florida State drubbed the Jayhawks 42-0 in the 1993 Kickoff Classic. After that thrashing Florida State

coach Bobby Bowden said, "We played a team that we were far superior to. The skill levels weren't even close, and the speed wasn't even close."

The tonic for most ailments in college football these days is speed. So Kansas coach Glen Mason has made it his recruiting mission over the past two seasons to infuse quickness into his lineup. But as last season's 6-5 record indicates, that mission has been only moderately successful. Though Mason's job is safe, he and the program seem to be living in quiet desperation. In the offseason Mason retooled his coaching staff-two new assistants were brought in, and five others changed responsibilities. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it, but if it is broke, try anything," says Mason. "I thought we needed to try anything."

On offense the Jayhawks are counting on June Henley, the nation's leading true freshman rusher in 1993, with 1,127 yards, to rebound from a shoulder injury that slowed him last season. He'll be asked to carry a heavy load to compensate for a passing attack that finished 91st in the nation in '94. The new quarterback will be either senior Mark Williams, the favorite, whose only start last year was in a 72–0 victory over hapless Division I-AA Alabama-Birmingham, or Ben Rutz, a junior transfer who once played at Nebraska. Whoever wins the job should know that fans in Lawrence are expecting the team to get a bowl bid.

Missouri, which won conference titles in 1960 and '69 under Dan Devine, would simply settle for a winning record. Since Devine left Missouri to coach the Green Bay Packers in 1971, the Tigers have had only 10 winning seasons. Their current streak of 11 consecutive losing seasons seems certain to stretch into the millennium unless second-year coach

Larry Smith can get his team to play better at home. Last season, for the first time since 1985, the Tigers were winless at Memorial Stadium. The low point came during a 38–23 homecoming loss to Colorado at which 23,099 seats—37% of capacity—were empty.

Yet there are signs of life for the Tigers, a team that went to five bowl games between 1978 and '83. Last year they held Nebraska to just 10 total yards in the first half, and three weeks later they nearly defeated 11th-ranked Kansas State in the game's waning moments. "We know what we want to do," says Smith. "Now it's just a matter of us getting better at it, getting players to do what we want them to do and do it consistently. That was probably our biggest problem last year."

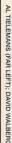
If the Tigers are to improve on their 3-8-1 record, then they will have to find a replacement for quarterback Jeff Handy, who graduated after throwing for the second-most yards (6,959) in Big Eight history. Junior Brandon Corso leads two other quarterbacks in the race for the starting job.

The winner will work with tailback Brock Olivo, a co-recipient of the Big Eight coaches' Offensive Freshman of the Year award last year. Not blessed with great size or speed, Olivo still rushed for 614 yards in only five starts. He will be counted on heavily, but no one will be able to carry Missouri to a winning record in 1995.

At **Oklahoma State**, first-year coach Bob Simmons will attempt to resuscitate a



Can Williams make the Jayhawks fly?





Davis's Cyclones-like the rest of the Little Four-will again get the worst of it when they knock heads with the Huskers.

program still trying to recover from a four-year stint on probation. In 1989, coming off back-to-back 10-win seasons, the Cowboys were slapped with sanctions for recruiting violations. The effects still linger today, but Simmons, who is the first black head coach in Big Eight history, is full of hope. "This school has won 42 national championships [in all sports combined]," says Simmons. "We want to build on the tradition in football."

There's not much to build on at present. The Cowboys are coming off a 3-7-1 season, and they haven't won a Big Eight game since 1992. The building

blocks for the offense will be sophomore Andre Richardson and junior David Thompson, one of the nation's top tailback tandems. They are small, speedy runners who combined for 1,593 yards last season. Together they may eclipse 2,000 yards this year, but don't look for the Cowboys to win more than four games in Simmons's inaugural season.

lowa State has an even bigger challenge than Oklahoma State does. The Cyclones—whose strength this year is their running game, which features junior Calvin Branch and sophomore Troy Davis—were one of only two teams in Division I that

failed to win a game last season. (Ohio, their opening-game opponent this year, was the other.) Therefore it could be regarded as good news that Iowa State lost 22 fifth-year seniors from last year's squad. "The football program right now has a long way to go," says first-year coach Dan McCarney.

McCarney, however, has a winning pedigree. He was an assistant to Hayden Fry at Iowa for 13 years. Recently, two of Fry's disciples, Bill Snyder at Kansas State and Barry Alvarez at Wisconsin, have turned around flagging programs. Just don't expect McCarney to do it quickly.

—LARS ANDERSON

### -A

## BIGEAST

#### RANKINGS

- 1. Miami
- 2. Boston College
- 3. Virginia Tech
- 4. West Virginia
- 5. Syracuse
- 6. Pittsburgh
- 7. Rutgers
- 8. Temple

In April, EA Sports in San Mateo, Calif., received a letter from Mike Bianchin, a senior offensive tackle at **Virginia Tech**. Bianchin had written to the video game manufacturer to lobby for his team's inclusion in the next edition of one of its hot-selling products, *Bill Walsh College Football*. "My teammates and I set a goal for the 1993–94 season to finish in the Top 25 and be selected for your video game," he wrote. "Upon the purchase of the '95 version, I and all one hundred twenty-one of my teammates were disappointed to find ourselves not included." The letter bore 68 signatures.

The Hokies, who finished last season with a No. 24 ranking in the CNN/USA Today poll but didn't make the AP's final list, have a shot at making the final cut this season, in both polls and in "Bill Walsh"—even if they can't climb past conference powerhouses Miami (page 92) and Boston College (page 105). After going 8–3 in each of the past two years and appearing in a pair of bowls, they will first need to avoid the sort of defensive collapse they suffered at the end of 1994: In its last three games, Tech surrendered 1,388 yards and 121 points. The '95 Hokie defenders need only look in the

mirror for inspiration: Ten of the starting 11 are returning.

Then coach Frank Beamer must find a capable replacement for Maurice DeShazo, the school's alltime leader in touchdown passes. His choices are junior Jim Druckenmiller, a dropback quarterback, and Al Clark, a scrambling redshirt freshman. Clark sat out last year and molded his game after DeShazo's. "Both are talented," Beamer says. "I have confidence either man can do the job."

West Virginia had a down-and-up season in '94, losing four of its first five before winning six of its last seven to earn a trip to the Carquest Bowl. This year the early returns promise to be better; the Mountaineers should be favored in their first five games.

It's easy to pick the most exciting player in Morgantown: Aaron Beasley, a 6-foot, 190-pound senior cornerback, won the team's 1994 Mr. Excitement Award. Beasley pulled in a Division I-leading 10 interceptions last season, including at least one in six straight games. "Aaron Beasley can deliver the big play," says coach Don Nehlen, who hopes for the same on offense from 6'3", 200-pound junior quarterback Chad Johnston, who threw for 1,863 yards in '94, and from tailback Robert Walker, who returns to full strength after being hobbled by an injured ankle last season. As a sophomore in 1993, Walker set the Mountaineer single-season rushing record: 1,250 yards on 214 carries.

After starting 6–1 last season,

Syracuse dropped three of its next four games and for the second straight year spent New Year's at home. The Orangemen's uneven season can be traced to their uneven offense; they led the Big East in rushing but were last in

passing. "We want to have the balance we had in 1987, 1988 and 1992," offensive coordinator George DeLeone says. The attack will probably be in the hands of sophomore Keith Downing, who despite serving as the kneel-down quarterback last season (four games, two passes attempted, zero completions) has the most experience at the position. Downing will have at his disposal Marvin Harrison, a senior wideout who has proved himself as both a possession receiver and a deep threat.

While 5'8", 196-pound junior Malcolm Thomas won't remind anyone of Syracuse legends Jim Brown or Ernie Davis, his 642 rushing yards as a backup last season ranked seventh in the conference. The team's biggest X factor may be the defensive line, where two of the projected starters are converted linebackers.

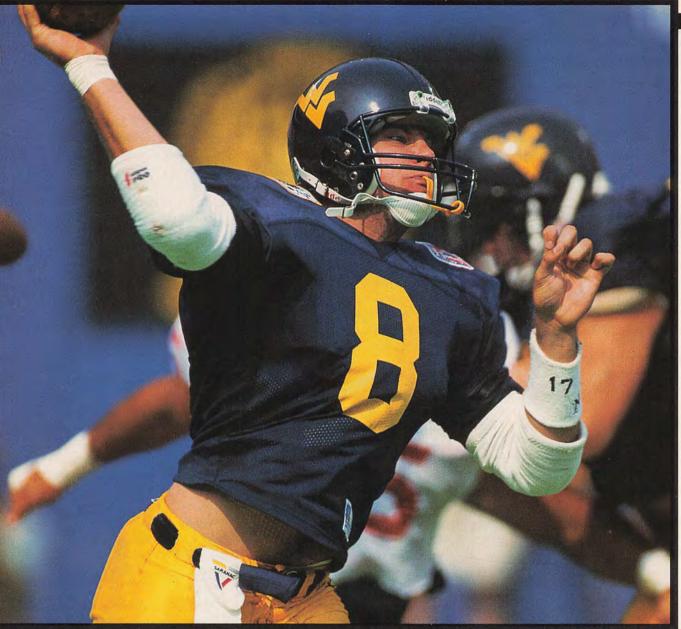
Ex-Miami line coach Ed Orgeron should instill some Hurricane swagger in the green Orange line. "The manner in which Ed approaches the game is going to allow us to be more aggressive," head coach Paul Pasqualoni says.

**Pittsburgh** is led by the '94 Big East Offensive Player of the Year, Billy West, who began last season as a backup. A 5'10", 195-pound junior, West registered the fifth-highest rushing total in Panther history; his 1,358 yards have been surpassed by only Tony Dorsett (three times) and Craig (Ironhead) Heyward. But the departure of three starters on the offensive line, including All-America



Thomas (17) gives the Orangemen juice.





With Johnston directing the offense, the Mountaineers are hoping to get off to a faster start this season.

tackle Reuben Brown, will make last year's act a hard one for West to follow. Bolstering the offense is senior receiver Dietrich Jells, who needs only 22 catches and 51 yards receiving to become Pitt's career leader in both categories.

Defensively, the Panthers will be better, but by any standard they still won't be good. Coach Johnny Majors has tried to raise the team's sights. "Our goal last year was to have an opportunity to win in the fourth quarter," he says. "Now we want to win some of those games."

**Rutgers** has had a history of losing top New Jersey talent to nearby programs like Penn State and Syracuse. Fortunately for coach Doug Graber, two of his biggest stars didn't stray from N.J.: senior quarterback Ray Lucas from Harrison and junior running back Terrell (Lightning) Willis from Orange.

In each of the last three years Lucas has completed at least 57% of his passes, and the Scarlet Knights have gained at least 4,000 yards in total offense. The 6-foot, 200-pound Willis rushed for 1,080 yards in '94 despite not starting until the ninth game, when his running mate, Bruce (Thunder) Presley, was sidelined by a groin injury. Both Thunder and

Lightning will be back this fall. But Rutgers can only hope that opposing teams don't fill the sky with footballs, as they did in '94. The Knights ranked No. 106 (that's out of 107) in the nation in pass defense, allowing opposing quarterbacks to complete 65.4% of their throws.

Temple has been fodder for the rest of the Big East teams for the league's entire four-year history. This year the Owls face a rugged start—their first three games are at Kansas State, West Virginia and Penn State—and things won't get much easier after that: Their schedule includes seven '94 bowl teams. —DAVID SABINO



#### RANKINGS

- 1. Florida State
- 2. North Carolina State
- 3. North Carolina
- 4. Virginia
- 5. Clemson
- 6. Duke
- 7. Georgia Tech
- 8. Maryland
- 9. Wake Forest

The ACC, also known as Florida State (page 72) and the Wannabe Eight, remains the most predictable conference in the nation. And one thing you can count on is that the Seminoles, who are 24–0 in the conference since joining it in 1992, will go undefeated in the league. Rival coaches such as Mack Brown of North Carolina can only dream about the day—it will come, won't it?—when Florida State loses a conference game. "I don't think they're vulnerable yet," Brown says.

Indeed, for **North Carolina** the most realistic goal is to supplant North Carolina State (*page 96*) as the ACC's second-best team. For that to happen, Brown will have to rebuild a defense that has lost seven starters, including all three linebackers. One plus for the defense is 6'6", 278-pound tackle Marcus Jones, an Outland Trophy candidate.

On offense, the Tar Heels' celebrated Johnson & Johnson tailback tandem came to a premature end when Curtis Johnson opted for the NFL draft in May instead of returning for his senior season. In '94 Curtis and junior Leon Johnson combined for more than 1,500 yards rushing. Neither Leon nor quarterback Mike Thomas, a fifth-year senior, has an experienced backup, meaning that Brown

must develop some depth at those positions by the time Carolina reaches the killer portion of its schedule: The last four games are against Clemson, Florida State, Duke and North Carolina State.

For the first time since 1974, Virginia will play its home games on grass, having replaced the artificial turf in Scott Stadium with the real stuff. That's fitting, because by season's end everybody—especially those on the bowl committees—will know that coach George Welsh's team is the real deal.

Defensively, the Cavaliers return seven starters, including sophomore cornerback Ronde Barber, from the unit that led the nation in run defense (63.6 yards per game) last season. Barber, the ACC Rookie of the Year in '94, picked off eight passes.

Virginia's defense has been so good in recent years that it has been easy to overlook the offense, even though the Cavs have scored more than 300 points in six consecutive seasons. It may be difficult to ignore the offense this year, though. Senior quarterback Mike Groh, tailbacks Kevin Brooks, a senior, and Tiki Barber, a junior, and senior wideout Demetrius (Pete) Allen are back and will operate behind a line to which four starters return.

At **Clemson** the offense has been neither pretty nor productive. In '94, Tommy West's first full season as Tiger coach, the team averaged only 15 points a game and finished last in the league in passing yards, with 1,083. This season the Tigers won't be toothless. Sophomore quarterback Nealon Greene, who started and played well in five games last season, will become the full-time starter. His backfield will include junior fullback Emory Smith, brother of the Dallas Cowboys' Emmitt, and sophomore running backs Lamont Pegues and Raymond Priester.

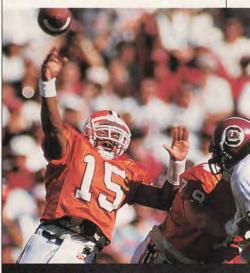
As usual, Clemson's defense will be one

of the league's best. Last season senior end Marcus Cross had 64 tackles and 10 quarterback pressures, leading a defense that allowed only 17 points per game.

At **Duke**, Fred Goldsmith still has a long way to go to catch Mike Krzyzewski as a coaching icon. Nevertheless, Goldsmith earned a heap of credibility by guiding the Blue Devils to a surprising 8–4 record in his first year at Durham.

To build on that beginning, Goldsmith's team will need to improve its pass defense, which was seventh in the ACC last season, and find a way to replace ACC Player of the Year Robert Baldwin, who rushed for 1,187 yards in '94. Neither problem is insurmountable. The pass defense should tighten with the maturation of senior free safety Ray Farmer, a big hitter, and sophomore strong safety Tawambi Settles. On offense, the Blue Devils may have the Baldwin of the future in 5'11", 225-pound Dawud Rasheed, Alabama's Mr. Football for 1994. Until Rasheed develops, look for Duke to pass more. Senior quarterback Spence Fischer threw 16 TD passes and just eight interceptions last year. Senior tight end Bill Khayat and sophomore wideout Corey Thomas will be Fischer's favorite targets.

Georgia Tech coach George O'Leary begins his first full season in place of Bill Lewis, who resigned with three games remaining last season after going 0–8 in the conference. O'Leary, the team's former defensive coordinator and defensive line coach, has a young squad that played four true freshmen in '94.



Greene takes the Clemson controls.





Don't expect Corey Thomas and the Blue Devils—or any other ACC school—to finish on top of the Seminoles.

The Rambling Wreck was an appropriate nickname for last year's team: Last season the offense turned the ball over 38 times, and the equally hapless defense had a league-low 11 sacks.

The big story on offense is that Donnie Davis, a fifth-year senior, won the quarterback job from Tommy Luginbill in spring practice. Luginbill, fourth in the league in total offense in '94, has since transferred to Eastern Kentucky (page 156). The defense should benefit from the addition of tackle Albert Jackson and end Jermaine Miles, two junior college transfers.

Defense is something that's desperately

needed at **Maryland**, where the team surrendered at least 40 points in six games and failed to hold any opponent below 300 yards in total offense. Coach Mark Duffner seemed optimistic after spring practice, saying, "the defensive line might be a weakness, but we're developing strength at linebacker, and the secondary is one of our strengths." Help for the defensive backfield will be provided by newcomers Chad Scott and Andre Hentz, transfers from Towson State and Furman, respectively.

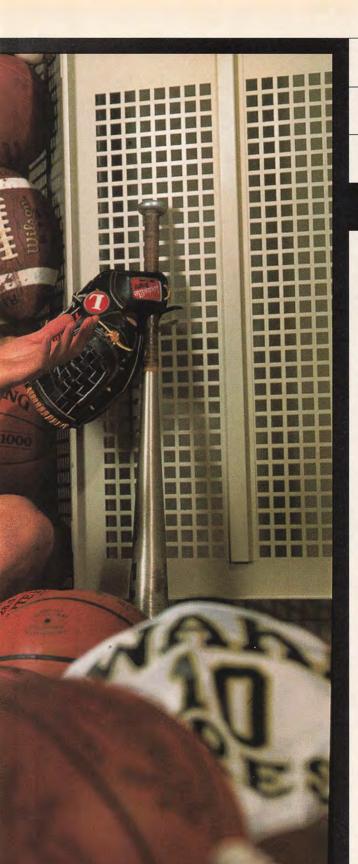
Offensively, Maryland will have to cope with the four-game suspension for gambling of senior quarterback Scott Milanovich—who last season completed 69% of his passes and threw for 2,394 yards and 20 TDs—and an offensive line that has lost four starters.

Wake Forest coach Jim Caldwell needs to address his team's timid attitude. Last season the 3–8 Deacons were pushed all over the field as opponents bullied the defense for 451 yards per game, and the weakling offense averaged a league-low 253 yards. He set the tone this spring by saying that the winner of the quarterback battle between Rusty LaRue (following page) and Brian Kuklick will be the one who shows the most fire.

—WILLIAM F. REED



## AMEMINITAL SESONS



HE'S A QUARTERBACK! HE'S A PITCHER! HE'S A

SHOOTING GUARD! WAKE FOREST'S RUSTY LARUE

HAS A BALL-NO MATTER WHAT TIME OF YEAR IT IS

#### BY LEIGH MONTVILLE

he quarterback is talking now. His name is Rusty LaRue—a quarterback name if ever there was one—and he was the starter last year for Wake Forest as a junior and he figures to be the starter again this year. He is a 21-year-old guy with a military-style buzz cut. His even voice is touched softly by the South; he is talking about an embarrassing moment.

"There were 40 seconds left," he says. "We were playing North Carolina...."

Yes?

"I had the ball. I faked...."

Yes?

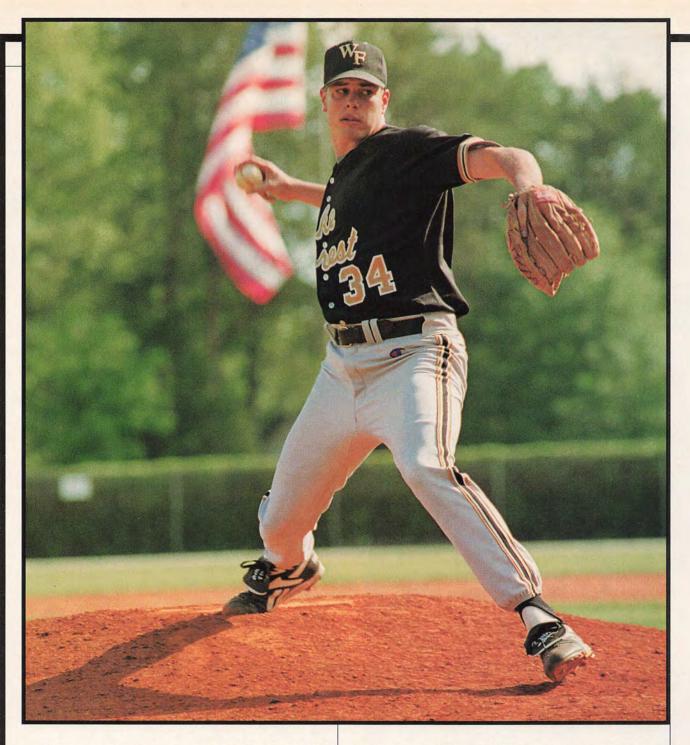
"Jerry Stackhouse went for the fake. But...."

Jerry Stackhouse? Wait a minute. Isn't Jerry Stackhouse the basketball All-America from North Carolina, the NBA's No. 3 draft choice? He didn't play football, did he?

"I put up a brick. Stackhouse got the ball and went down the other way and nailed a three-pointer to tie it. Thank goodness we won the game and the ACC title in overtime. If we'd have lost by that.... I went back to the gym the next morning. I took the same shot all over again and made it. No problem."

Basketball? The quarterback is also a basketball player? How can he do that? Don't the seasons overlap in Division I-A, the high-powered level of college sport? Isn't this the Age of Specialization? After all, doctors aren't doctors anymore—they're experts on the third vertebra from the top or the second toe from the left. And lawyers handle only cases involving DNA left out in the rain. And athletes—big-time athletes, at least—can work with only one kind of ball for an entire school year, right? How can this quarterback be a basketball player?

If you think LaRue's locker is full, check out his calendar.



"I just get up and go," LaRue says. "In the off-season I can lift weights and run in the morning and play basketball at the Y at night. In the afternoon sometimes I can practice my hitting. That's the toughest thing to keep up, hitting baseballs."

Hitting baseballs?

"Rusty LaRue. The more I get to know him, the more amazed I am by him," Wake Forest offensive coordinator Jan Quarless—that's football offensive coordinator Jan Quarless—says. "He has a tremendous balance in his life, a great ability to focus on what he is doing. He somehow doesn't get caught up in all those college things that other students seem to find. I've been

coaching now for 20 years, and if I had to name any athletes who would even try to do the things he does, he would be the only one I could think of."

Football, basketball, baseball. The best way to describe his busy life is with a list. What does Rusty LaRue do?

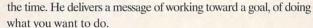
- He is the incumbent quarterback on the football team. The Demon Deacons struggled last year with a 3–8 record and will probably struggle again this year. He is one of those coach-on-the-field sort of quarterbacks—not flashy, but confident. Steady. He connected on 132 of 230 passes last year, five for touchdowns.
- He is a shooting guard on the basketball team, the ACC champs. He was the sixth man for the Deacons last year, 6'3", 190

pounds, coming off the bench to shoot three-pointers. The team is expected to be good again, and he has a chance to start.

- He is a pitcher on the baseball team. He joined the team late—after the NCAA basketball tournament and spring football practice—and appeared in only one game, against Furman. The first two batters singled, but he retired the next nine in his only three innings.
- He is a computer-science major with a minor in math and a 3.2 grade point average. He has worked the past four summers with professor Robert Plemmons on special projects under a National Science Foundation grant. He is the co-author of a paper entitled "Optimization Problems in Adaptive Optics," which won a regional prize. The other author, Matthew Rudd, is now pursuing a doctorate at the University of Chicago.
- He is a tutor in an English-as-a-second-language program at a Winston-Salem church and a speaker at assorted banquets and luncheons. He makes speaking appearances everywhere, all



Triple threat LaRue was the only Division I-A athlete to play all three of the major sports last year.



 And he is a married man. A year ago he and Tammy Watson, his girlfriend since he was 14 years old, were wed. The big news here—this just in—is that he is also an expectant father.

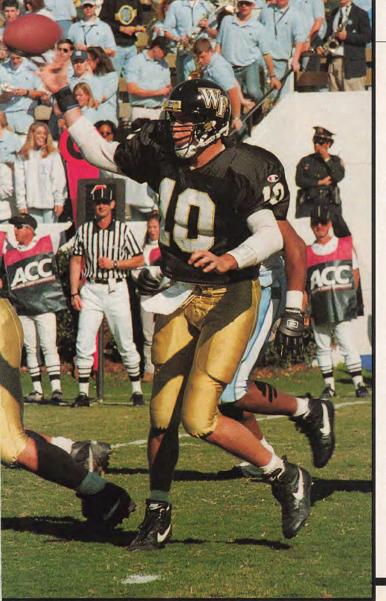
"I'm always doing something, going somewhere," he says, describing his days. "You look in the back of my GMC Jimmy and you'll find all kinds of things. Right now there's a baseball bat because I've been practicing my hitting. There's a basketball—I'll have a basketball in my car until the day I die. There's a football, in case I have a chance to do some throwing. And, of course, a pair of hightops. They're always there. I'm ready."

Sometimes he cooks dinner when he gets home.

"He's always been busy, and he's always played sports," LaRue's mother, Linda, says. "When he was growing up, we lived in Kernersville, which is halfway between Winston-Salem and Greensboro. It was just the perfect neighborhood for sports. If you came out the front door and held any kind of ball in your hands, there were 15 kids around you in an instant, ready to play a game. Any game.

"There was a woman across the street, Mrs. Blanton, who had an entire baseball field in her backyard. The mound, the base paths, everything. The only rule she had—kids could play there anytime—was that if a kid came to the field, he had to be allowed to play. Boy, girl, any age. I remember Rusty going over there, five years old, and the kids wouldn't let him play, and he was knocking on the door, saying, 'Mrs. Blanton, isn't it a rule they have to let me play?' He was in the game."

Another neighbor, Mrs. Wear, had a large yard that was used for football. The LaRues' house was where the basketball court

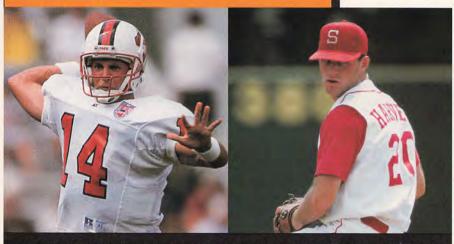


## Leading a Double Life

Bottom of the fifth, bases loaded, two out. Terry Harvey, the North Carolina State pitcher, had nearly worked out of this jam as he composed himself and turned to face the Georgia Tech batter. After a deep breath, Harvey hummed one home.

An instant later the righthander watched his pitch and his 1–0 lead disappear over the outfield fence. As Harvey described it, "It was like going downfield on a gamewinning drive and coughing it up at the goal line." He should know; he's also the Wolfpack's quarterback.

As it happened, Harvey retired six of the next seven batters in this first-round game of the ACC baseball



The Wolfpack's Harvey is one of several two-way types in the ACC.

tournament in May, and N.C. State came back for a 12-inning, 9–5 victory over Tech. Harvey, who would go 9–4 last season as a starting pitcher and 8–2 as a starting quarterback, came away with a no-decision despite working 10½ innings. "I hung in there after that one bad pitch," Harvey said. "I guess football has made me tougher."

When Harvey was a high school senior, most recruiters told him he would have to decide between football and baseball. Instead, he attended a school that allowed him to play both sports. Now a senior, he is one of several ACC quarterbacks who have also been ACC pitchers. Last year every school in the conference except Virginia had a player on its football roster who had both quarterbacked and pitched while in college.

Why so many pitching quarterbacks in the ACC?

Nobody has an answer, although the ACC is more encouraging than most conferences of players' participating in multiple sports. But Harvey has his own theory: "The pressure, the intensity is a challenge," he says. "At both positions you're either the hero or the zero, and you're going to wear it one way or the other."

—J.B. MORRIS

was located. They had it covered with a synthetic surface so it would dry quickly. They had a regulation backboard. They had lights. They had games late into the night. A kid could play all three sports in the neighborhood in a single day, any day. At least one kid could. His focus was with him from the beginning.

"When Rusty was ready for sixth grade, our county passed a measure that dropped all sports in the middle schools," Linda says. "Rusty was upset. All on his own he found out that the next county, Guilford County, had kept sports and that he could attend if we paid tuition. He said that was what he wanted to do. We kind of played down the idea, but about a week later he came back with his arguments. He had them all written down on a piece of paper. He had the comparative SAT scores for the two counties. He had the finances figured out. He had all this logic. We paid tuition for seventh and eighth grades, and then we moved to

Guilford County when he went to high school."

He played all the games on all the teams. He was everywhere. He remembered the plays in Pop Warner football better than his coach, who happened to be his father, Bob. His father would tell him, "Just pick a running play." He pitched on a senior Little League team that went to the World Series and lost to Taiwan. He made trips around the country with AAU boys' basketball teams. That was the family vacation: AAU tournaments, following Rusty or his older brother, Chan, or his younger sister, Katie, in the summer.

There were various coaches who told him, "Psssst, Rusty, you'd really better pick

one of these sports and concentrate on that." But why? He was all-state in football at Northwest Guilford High School. He was all-state in basketball. He was all-state in baseball. He did a science project in the family sink that peeled away the enamel. He was hanging out with Tammy, a three-sport athlete herself, all the time. He graduated 11th in his class.

"I saw him stressed out only once," his mother says. "The only time in his life, really. It was the spring. The team was in the basketball finals. He was getting his arm ready for baseball, lifting weights for football. He also had some major reports due for class. I found him at 5 a.m. working on the computer. He was worried that he couldn't get everything done. The next day, though, the problem was gone. He figured it out for himself. He started going to school an hour earlier."

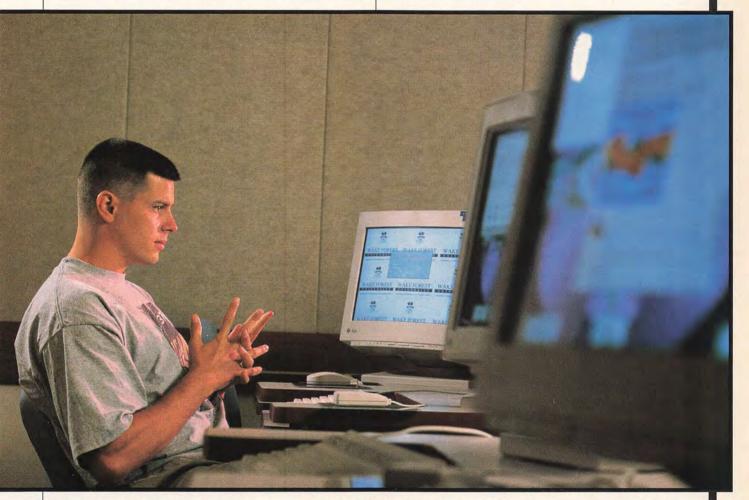
The first three years in college have been attacked the same way. Need more time? Put more hours in the day. The casual parts of campus life have been eliminated from the schedule. No frat parties. No dormitory water fights. No fooling around. Even marriage was part of the streamlining. Tammy, two years older,

had graduated from college and was living in Greensboro. Think of the commuting time he could cut out if they were living together as man and wife. That was part of the presentation he made to his parents, everything written down on paper again. Logic.

He has extracted as much out of his football scholarship as it could give. He has gone to a bowl game and been knocked unconscious by Florida State All-America defensive end Derrick Alexander before a home crowd. He has been called for a foul

North Carolina. He said he had a project he had to complete."

"He's one of those kids you don't ever have to worry about," basketball coach Dave Odom says. "He's always doing what he's supposed to be doing. You ask how he came to be like this, and I say that it came from the home. He came from an area where family was the most important thing there was. There were no mixed signals, as there are for so many kids today. His life was very orderly. And it shows."



As a computer-science major, LaRue exhibits his multiple skills even when his playing field is cyberspace.

against Grant Hill at Duke, the two of them landing in a clump of arms and legs. He has played in the Sweet 16 twice. Baseball? He will see to that next spring. There is the thought from Wake Forest baseball coach George Greer that maybe that will be the sport he follows into the pros. All this, and he also has been a dean's-list student.

"I watched the game against North Carolina at Chapel Hill last year on television," Plemmons says. "Rusty was on the court. The game ended, I did a few things around the house, and a little bit after midnight I realized I needed something back at the computer lab. I got there and the lights were on. There was Rusty, back from

"He's always been surrounded by family," his mother says. "We're all from around here, just a bunch of us, and we go everywhere together. This year we took our first real vacation—no teams or games involved. We all went to Orlando together. Grandmothers, aunts, uncles, wives, husbands. We had a real blast."

The quarterback, the only student in the country to play all three major sports at the Division I-A level last year, is asked about the trip.

"It was great," he says with that even Southern voice. "I got to play golf on one of those Disney courses."



#### RANKINGS

- 1. Colorado State
- 2. BYU
- 3. Fresno State
- 4. Utah
- 5. Air Force
- 6. San Diego State
- 7. Wyoming
- 8. New Mexico
- 9. UTEP
- 10. Hawaii

ByU's 1984 national title was considered a fluke, mainly because few outside the WAC take the league seriously. Mention the conference and somebody is sure to kiss it off as a videogame league in which a 38–35 score is considered a defensive struggle. But as the trend toward superconferences continues, the WAC appears to be on track for greater national respect.

In 1996 the addition of Southwest Conference refugees Rice, SMU and TCU will make the WAC harder to ignore. But the conference is also better balanced this year, with Colorado State (page 104) surpassing traditional league powerhouse BYU (page 113). One of the up-and-comers is Fresno State, where coach Jim Sweeney needs six wins to reach 200 for his career. To get those—and more this season—Sweeney has brought in 20 junior college transfers to provide a quick fix for a team that went 5-7-1 last year.

Three juco players—Lumumba Neal, Lee Pakola and Joe Barnes—should help a Bulldog defense that allowed an average of 33 points and 464 yards per game in '94. Another transfer, Jim Arellanes, will challenge incumbent quarterback Richie Donati, who presided over the league's eighth-ranked total offense and didn't make anyone forget Trent Dilfer.

Whoever is doing the throwing will enjoy the WAC's best pair of receivers, senior Charlie Jones and junior Brian Roberson.

At Utah, sixth-year coach Ron McBride has been the architect of one of the nation's most impressive rebuilding jobs. Last season's Utes vaulted to a 10-2 record and the first Top 10 ranking in school history. While it will be difficult to match that feat in '95, McBride nevertheless will have the advantages of seven home games and a deep pool of talented athletes. At quarterback, for example, the Utes have three solid candidates to succeed WAC passing leader Mike McCoy. One of them, redshirt junior Mike Fouts, is a nephew of Dan Fouts, the former star quarterback of the San Diego Chargers.

Utah will at least lead the nation in brother acts. The Lusk brothers, Henry and Harold, are expected to be big-play guys at slotback and free safety, respectively. The Kaufusi boys, Jeff and Henry, will start on the defensive line.

After years of decline, **Air Force** returned to prominence last season, winning eight of its last nine games. The streak was due in large part to the hightech flexbone offense, which averaged 435 yards per game. Junior quarterback Beau Morgan returns, as do backs Jake Campbell and Nakia Addison, who combined to gain 1,254 yards.

The Air Force offense will need to put plenty of points on the board to compensate for a shaky defense that must replace seven starters. But the Falcons still have senior safety LeRon Hudgins, one of the WAC's most feared hitters. The team's fate will be largely determined by how it fares in its first three games: against BYU, Wyoming and Colorado State.

Although Ted Tollner—the former USC coach who's beginning his second season at **San Diego State**—hasn't found another Marshall Faulk yet, he has made enormous strides in recruiting. Tollner, whose team had a 4–7 record last year, has signed 16 freshmen from the Aztecs' talent-rich home area.

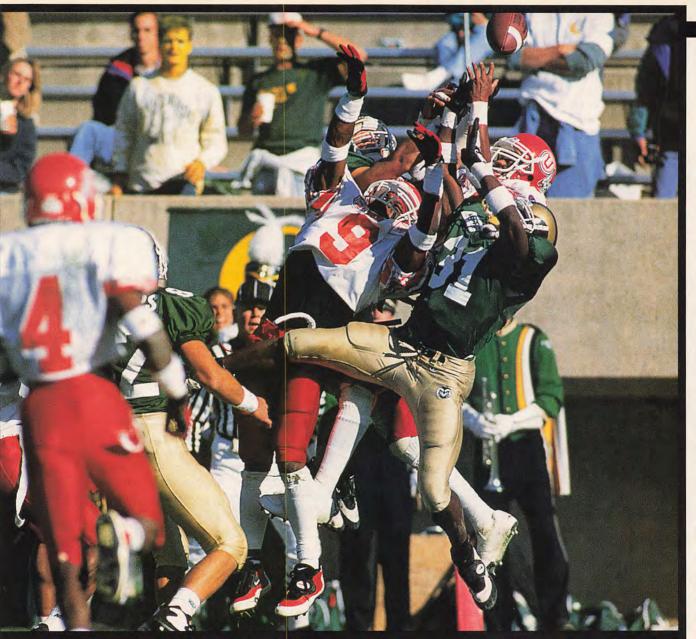
Despite opening against Cal, Oklahoma and BYU, the Aztecs have an excellent chance for a winning record. Junior quarterback Billy Blanton, who showed flashes of brilliance last season, has a pair of big-time receivers in sophomore Will Blackwell and senior DeAndre Maxwell. Much will depend on whether the defense, which allowed an average of 443 yards per game in '94, can improve. Senior defensive tackle La'Roi Glover is a candidate for the All-America team, not to mention the All-Name team.

Without an established quarterback or running back, **Wyoming** will most likely hang around the middle of the WAC pack. Under coach Joe Tiller, however, the Cowboys could have the league's best pass defense: Three starting defensive backs return from a team that yielded only 189 yards per game through the air, third best in the WAC. On offense, four starting linemen will be back, including all-league junior tackle Steve Scifres. The Cowboys suffer from a lack of speed, though that's



Hudgins (32) is a force for the Falcons.





Safety Harold Lusk (9) is one of the big-play brothers for the Utes, who hope to rise again to a lofty ranking.

not the case with junior wide receiver Marcus Harris, who averaged 20.3 yards per catch last season.

New Mexico can be the league's surprise team if—and this is a big if—senior quarterback Scott Peterson can adequately replace Stoney Casey, who finished his career fifth on the NCAA's alltime total-offense list. Pro scouts will be watching two Lobo prospects: Calvin (the Eclipse) Allen, a 6'7", 385-pound senior offensive tackle, and senior running back Winslow Oliver, who had 706 yards in '94.

After **UTEP** went 3-7-1 in coach Charlie Bailey's second full season, the team's

sixth straight losing season, an emergency fund-raising campaign was started to keep the athletic program alive. The drive was a success, raising \$750,000. If only the football team were as prosperous.

Although the Miners were competitive in most games, they still finished last in the league in three categories (total offense, scoring offense and rushing defense) and next to last in three others (passing offense, total defense and scoring defense). For the Miners to improve, Bailey needs to recruit more players like senior running back Toraino Singleton (1,277 yards rushing and 11 touchdowns)

and junior linebacker Michael Comer.

Only two years after winning a WAC title and the Holiday Bowl, **Hawaii** fell to 0–8 in the conference, largely because it finished first in turnovers. How did the Rainbow program fall apart so quickly? Since the 1992 success, six assistants have left coach Bob Wagner's staff, recruiting has fallen off sharply, and frustration is setting in among the fans. Wagner could be gone if the team doesn't show improvement, but that's going to be difficult against a schedule that opens with Texas at home and Wyoming on the road.

-WILLIAM F. REED

## SWIC



SMU's flashy QB, Ramon Flanigan, will try to give the SWC a last hurrah.

The once proud Southwest Conference will deliver its swan song this season, after which its teams will disperse to other leagues. Texas A & M, Texas, Texas Tech and Baylor will join with the Big Eight schools to form the Big 12; Rice, TCU and SMU will hook up with the Western Athletic Conference; and Houston will become a member of the new Conference USA.

The SWC will be remembered for such stars as Davey O'Brien, Bobby

#### RANKINGS

- 1. Texas A&M
- 2. Texas
- 3. Texas Tech
- 4. TCU
- 5. Baylor
- 6. Rice
- 7. Houston
- 8. SMU

Layne, Doak Walker, Kyle Rote and Earl Campbell. It will also be remembered for excesses—coaches and boosters so hungry for victory that in the 1980s, every school except Rice was found guilty of NCAA rules violations.

The SWC's farewell season doesn't figure to look a lot different from last year. After Texas A & M (page 64) and Texas (page 110), the talent level drops off appreciably. The best of the rest figures to be **Texas Tech**. The Red Raiders have a budding star in sophomore quarterback Zebbie Lethridge—is that a great SWC football name or what?—but he may not approach last season's numbers (he broke virtually every school freshman scoring and passing record) because of a fairly inexperienced line.

The Tech D, which ranked third in pass-defense efficiency last season, will be spearheaded by Zach Thomas, a

senior linebacker from Pampa, Texas, who was last season's consensus SWC Defensive Player of the Year.

At **TCU**, enthusiasm is building: The team averaged 37,074 fans last fall—up 42.5% from 1993. Who wouldn't get excited by senior quarterback Max Knake and senior tailback Andre Davis, co-winners of the league's 1994 Offensive Player of the Year award? Knake finished as the seventh-ranked passer in Division I-A; Davis rushed for 135.8 yards per game.

But here's the most intriguing news in Fort Worth: The defense dominated spring practice. Senior linebacker Lenoy Jones is a potential All-America, but in the spring he was overshadowed by senior linebacker Tyrone Roy, who said his dramatic improvement in agility was due to ballet classes he started taking last season at the suggestion of strength coaches. If Roy and his teammates stay on their toes, the Frogs could make a second consecutive bowl trip.

**Baylor** will go to a 3–4 defensive front that should enable the Bears to pressure quarterbacks. Offensively, the Bears will be beefy, with three players who weigh more than 300 pounds. Redshirt offensive guard Patrick Dukes checks in at 6'6" and 398 pounds.

Despite finishing tied for first in the SWC, **Rice** dropped four of its last six games to finish 5–6. There's little reason to expect improvement this fall, although coach Ken Hatfield says junior cornerback Warrick Franklin is "as good as there is in the country."

Six years after having Heisman Trophy winner Andre Ware, **Houston** has fallen so far that even Cougar fans aren't interested. Average attendance last fall was 21,308, worst in the league—and rooters have little incentive to return.

At **SMU**, coach Tom Rossley says of his 1-9-1 team, "We're getting close to coming up with wins instead of the almost-wins." Still, the Mustangs are a long way from the Walker-Rote days of the 1940s. And by next year the SWC glory years will seem far away to everyone. —WILLIAM F. REED

#### RANKINGS

- 1. Bowling Green
- 2. Central Michigan
- 3. Miami (Ohio)
- 4. Western Michigan
- 5. Ball State
- 6. Toledo
- 7. Kent
- 8. Eastern Michigan
- 9. Akron
- 10. Ohio

Critics say that the Mid-American Conference doesn't belong in Division I-A. They point out that the MAC struggles to meet I-A attendance requirements, that it annually ranks near the bottom of the conference power ratings and that four of the last six schools to hold the nation's longest losing streak in Division I-A were from the Mid-American. So why shouldn't the MAC drop to I-AA? For starters, the conference is one of the last places in big-time college football where you can still find someone like Ryan Henry.

Henry, a senior at **Bowling Green**, has a golden arm, and a gilded attitude that's rare in college football. In '94 Henry— whom most recruiters ignored because he's just 6-foot—was 10th in the nation in passing efficiency and fourth in touchdown passes, with 25. He set a school record with seven TDs against Ball State. But records "just embarrass me," says Henry, who'll have a degree in interpersonal communication and be working on a master's when the season begins. "Football continues to serve its primary purpose: funding my education," he says.

Henry grew up in Canton, Ohio, and played his high school ball on the field at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in front of Mom, Dad and six siblings. Asked about his travels beyond Canton, the 22-yearold says, "Yeah, I've been to the Far East. Pennsylvania is a really nice place."

This season Henry may get to see the far west—at the Las Vegas Bowl, where the MAC winner will play the Big West champion on Dec. 14. Preseason MAC favorite Bowling Green has all-conference players Henry, senior offensive tackle Chad Bukey and senior defensive lineman Greg Cepek. The Falcons are 14-1-1 in conference games played at home the last four years. The loss came in last year's finale and gave Central Michigan the MAC crown.

Central, however, has lost eight starters on offense, including Brian Pruitt, the nation's second-leading rusher in 1994. Now the MAC's best back is **Miami (Ohio)** senior Deland McCullough, who has broken the 1,000-yard mark twice. The Redskins could

quiet the MAC's critics with a decent showing at Michigan on Sept. 30.

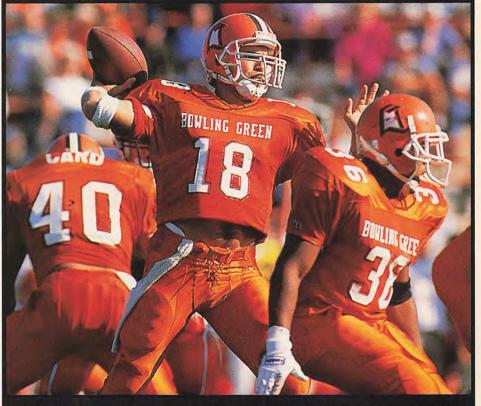
The league's other shot at bagging a Goliath comes on Oct. 21, when **Western Michigan** plays at Auburn. The Broncos' offense is powered by senior tailback Jim Vackaro and senior quarterback Jay McDonagh, who combined for 3,689 total yards in 1994.

Toledo has all but one starter back on defense, while **Kent** features running back Astron Whatley, the 1994 MAC Freshman of the Year. New coaches take over at **Ball State** (Bill Lynch), **Eastern Michigan** (Rick Rasnick), **Akron** and **Ohio**. With many players having graduated and only 40 scholarship athletes coming out of the spring, Lee Owens has his hands full as Gerry Faust's replacement at Akron, as does Jim Grobe at Ohio, which has averaged 1.7 wins per year for a decade.

Should the MAC option Ohio to another conference to boost its power rating? "Oh, no," says Henry. "Ohio will be much improved. I promise."

Who would want to rid the division of guys like this?

—DAVID FLEMING



Bowling Green's Henry (18) would rather count sheepskins than records.

#### -A

## BIGWEST



With Minor (3) avoiding major obstacles, the Wolf Pack can win the West.

If you were to tour the one million or so square miles of America bounded by the schools of the Big West football conference, you might wonder if the league's moniker shouldn't be the Very Big West. Or maybe a better fit would be the Foster Conference: the home for unwanted teams.

A California-only league as late as 1977, the Big West now includes virtually

RANKINGS

- 1. Nevada
- 2. Southwestern Louisiana
- 3. UNLV
- 4. Utah State
- 5. Northern Illinois
- 6. Pacific
- 7. San Jose State
- 8. New Mexico State
- 9. Louisiana Tech
- 10. Arkansas State

every outcast team west of the Mississippi, as well as one—Northern Illinois—east of it. Teams come and go in these parts more often than the Grateful Dead concert tour. At the end of this season, the Big West will say goodbye to six members and welcome four new ones, including three currently in Division I-AA. The '95 version of the Big West, however, will look familiar.

Although **Nevada** was a I-AA school as recently as 1991, the Wolf Pack has won part of the Big West championship in two of its first three years of membership. Last year senior quarterback Mike Maxwell led the nation in total yardage, with 318 per game, and only Penn State outdistanced Nevada's total offensive output of 507 yards per game. With senior running back Ken Minor and senior wideout Alex Van Dyke also returning, Nevada will lead the pack again.

Southwestern Louisiana is looking

for a share of the Big West title for the third year in a row. The Ragin' Cajuns have 10 offensive starters returning from last year's 6–5 team, including junior quarterback Jake Delhomme, who already ranks third on the Cajuns' career passing list with 3,554 yards.

By transforming a dismal program that went from a 3–8 record in '93 to a share of the conference championship in '94, second-year **UNLV** coach Jeff Horton has become a cult hero in Las Vegas. "When I first got here, it was like a morgue," Horton says. "No one would look each other in the eye." Now Rebel fans happily peer at each other—and at stars like senior linebacker Rossie Johnson—through Horton look-alike masks.

**Utah State** was the conference co-champion two years ago but slipped to 3–8 in '94. With new coach John L. Smith coming in and All–Big West kick returner Kevin Alexander coming back, the Aggies should improve on last year's seventh-place finish.

Anchored by All-America candidate Mike Sutherland at center, the offensive line at **Northern Illinois** averages 6'3" and 300 pounds a man. "This is the best offensive line in the Big West," says coach Charlie Sadler. But coming off last year's 4–7 record, the Huskies have only an outside shot at finishing as the best team in the Big West.

The top player at **Pacific** is senior tailback Joe Abdullah, who led the Tigers to their first winning season in 17 years by rushing for 1,075 yards last year. This season Abdullah will have to claw for yardage in nonconference games against Nebraska, Oregon and Arizona.

The San Jose State football team will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a better record than the 2–9 and 3–8 seasons that coach John Ralston has logged so far. Even so, the Spartans might be making their exit for the WAC through the Big West cellar door if not for the presence of New Mexico State, Louisiana Tech and Arkansas State, programs that will be fighting for last place in the conference and, quite possibly, last place in the nation.

-DAVID SABINO

## MERENDENTS

#### RANKINGS

- 1. Notre Dame
- 2. Louisville
- 3. Memphis
- 4. Southern Mississippi
- 5. Cincinnati
- 6. Tulsa
- 7. Tulane
- 8. East Carolina
- 9. Northeast Louisiana
- 10. North Texas
- 11. Army
- 12. Navy

Notre Dame (page 88) is the only team mighty enough to make it as an independent in the brave new world of college football. Most everyone else craves the security guaranteed by membership in a conference: shared revenue, a TV package and a possible spot in a bowl game. After this season independent schools Cincinnati, Louisville, Memphis, Southern Mississippi and Tulane will become members of the new Conference USA.

Former **Louisville** coach Howard Schnellenberger, who bolted to Oklahoma last December, left new coach Ron Cooper with the makings of a potential Top 25 team. Cooper, 34, is the youngest coach in Division I-A and one of only five blacks who coach I-A schools. "We're going to win here, I guarantee that," says Cooper. "It's time to take this program to the next level."

The players have been equally enthusiastic. "I'm looking at winning 12 games, and I think that's realistic," says senior quarterback Marty Lowe, who will play behind tackle Roman Oben, a 6'5", 290-pound native of Cameroon and a potential first-round NFL draft pick.

New **Memphis** coach Rip Scherer takes over a team that ranked 102nd

nationally in total offense, had no runs from scrimmage for more than 29 yards and passed for only four TDs last year. Those numbers should improve with two newcomers: Qadry Anderson, who passed for 34 TDs and 3,550 yards in two seasons at Laney (Calif.) Junior College, and redshirt freshman tailback Shaun Sands, a nephew of Dallas Cowboy receiver Michael Irvin.

**Southern Mississippi** has 10 starters returning from a defensive unit that ranked No. 2 in interceptions in I-A, but the hot spot is at quarterback, where a battle looms between returning starter Heath Graham and Chris Windsor, the 1994 juco player of the year.

Fan support is a major problem at **Cincinnati.** "What is not in place," says second-year coach Rick Minter, "is a great fan base, loyal support and a packed stadium." What *is* in place is a

daunting schedule that begins with Kansas, Kansas State and Virginia Tech.

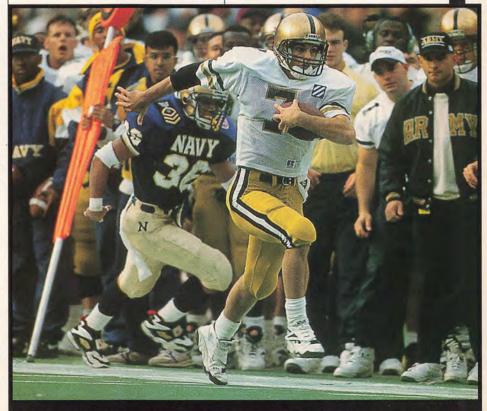
**Tulsa** has an even tougher lineup, with games against Baylor, Texas A & M and BYU. But with All-America candidate David Millwee returning at center, the Golden Hurricane should improve on last year's 3–8 record.

At **Tulane**, the best player returning from last year's 1–10 team is junior Jeff Liggon, who set the NCAA record for kickoff-return yardage (1,038) while the Wave's wave-'em-by D gave up 37 TDs.

**East Carolina** has a noteworthy quarterback in junior Marcus Crandell but opens against Tennessee and Syracuse. **Northeast Louisiana** has receiver Stepfret Williams returning (100.6 yards a game last year) but won't improve much on last year's 3–8 record. **North Texas**, playing its first year in I-A, may not even match that.

**Army** won't fare any better, but if fullback Akili King and quarterback Ronnie McAda stay healthy, the Cadets will beat **Navy**—even though the Middies have Joe Speed at safety.

-WILLIAM F. REED



If players like McAda stay healthy, Army will be a step ahead of Navy again.



FOOTBALL

TENNESSER

FOOTBALL

CLEMSON

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL

MICHIGAN

FOOTBALL FLORIDA STATE

FOOTBALL

NOTRE DAME

FOOTBALL

NEBRASKA

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL

OHIO STATE

FOOTBALL

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FOOTBALL

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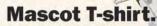
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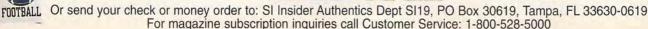












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## Division HAVA

#### THE TOP 25

- 1. Boise State (Idaho)
- 2. Youngstown State (Ohio)
- 3. Eastern Kentucky
- 4. Marshall (W.Va.)
- 5. Montana
- 6. McNeese State (La.)
- 7. Appalachian State (N.C.)
- 8. Grambling (La.)
- 9. Pennsylvania
- 10. William & Mary (Va.)
- 11. Northern Iowa
- 12. Idaho
- 13. James Madison (Va.)
- 14. South Carolina State
- 15. Middle Tennessee State
- 16. Massachusetts
- 17. Illinois State
- 18. Southern (Baton Rouge)
- 19. Delaware
- 20. Georgia Southern
- 21. Stephen F. Austin (Texas)
- 22. Troy State (Ala.)
- 23. Central Florida
- 24. Boston University
- 25. Butler (Ind.)

Helmet in hand, Boise State quarterback Tony Hilde stood on the sidelines during the Division I-AA championship game in Huntington, W.Va., last December and watched as Youngstown State romped to its third national championship in four years. All Boise State coach Pokey Allen could offer his quarterback was one piece of advice. "Keep your head in the game," he said.

The irony of his instructions was not lost on Allen. For weeks the coach had been distracted from playoff preparations by an increasingly uncomfortable pain in his right tricep. Initially he blamed the discomfort on a pulled muscle aggravated by a regimen of nearly 50 push-ups a day. But tests later showed a malignant tumor the size of a grapefruit. Two days after the 28–14 loss to Youngstown State, Allen revealed that he was suffering from a rare soft-tissue cancer. "Our whole team was crushed," Hilde says. "I kind of knew something was wrong before the final game—he wasn't the same old Pokey. But he's not one to tell you his hardships."

Allen immediately began 12 weeks of chemotherapy, which robbed him of his salt-and-pepper hair and mustache. By March the tumor had shrunk to the size of a peach and was surgically removed. Then, in June, Allen went to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle for a stem-cell transplant, a last-ditch effort to rid his body of the cancer. "He had one foot in the grave and one foot out," says Boise State sports information director Max Corbet. "But he's improving."

Allen's recovery has been slow, and the long-term success of the transplant won't be determined for months. But when the Broncos open their season against Utah State on Sept. 9, Allen plans to be back in the saddle, perhaps literally. After home attendance slumped during the playoffs last year, Allen promised to ride naked on a horse down Broadway in Boise if 20,000 fans filled Bronco Stadium for the semifinal game against Marshall. The fans came, the Broncos won, and Allen rode—though subfreezing temperatures forced him to keep his clothes on.

Expect more antics as Boise State (13–2 last season) makes its final run at the national championship before moving up to Division I-A in 1996. Returning is Hilde, a junior who completed 189 of 343 passes for 2,787 yards last season. Hilde's

top receiver, junior Ryan Ikebe (42 receptions for 726 yards and 11 TDs) also returns, as does the entire offensive line. Senior cornerback Rashid Gayle, an All-America who had seven interceptions and 58 tackles in '94, and senior linebacker Brian Smith (nine sacks for minus-66 yards) will lead six other starters returning from the Big Sky Conference's No. 1 scoring defense.

For **Youngstown State** to three-peat as national champs, senior quarterback Mark Brungard must make his way out of the fields and onto the AstroTurf of Arnold D. Stambaugh Stadium, where the Penguins are undefeated in their last 23 home games. Brungard, who passed for 2,453 yards last season, spent the summer in nearby New Middletown, Ohio, working on his parents' 200-acre farm, where the main crop is strawberries. "I eat strawberry shortcake, strawberry pie and just plain strawberries," says Brungard. "After being around them every day, you kind of get sick of them."

Must be how the rest of I-AA feels about the Penguins, whose continued success on defense—they held opponents to 85.7 yards rushing and 10.1 points per game last year—rests on the shoulders of senior inside linebacker Leon Jones, the only I-AA player nominated for the Butkus Award last year. After making 170 tackles in '94, Jones hopes to epitomize last year's team motto, *Macte virtute*, which means "increased excellence." Expect around 200 tackles from Jones this year.



Hilde (18) will drive the Broncos far.





As the big man for the Thundering Herd, the prodigious Parker is looking at four Southern Conference career marks.

Eastern Kentucky has been in 15 of the last 17 I-AA playoffs, more than any other school, and with 16 starters returning from a team that lost in the second round to Youngstown State, the Colonels should be there again. Says coach Roy Kidd, who has 257 wins in 31 years at Eastern Kentucky, "We always expect to win."

So does **Marshall**, though the Thundering Herd fell to Boise State 28–24 in last year's semifinals and failed to reach the championship game for the first time since 1991. The Herd will make a strong run at this year's title game with Chris Parker, a senior tailback who is

one rushing touchdown, 17 points, 657 rushing yards and 864 all-purpose yards away from becoming the Southern Conference's alltime leader in each category. Also returning is junior cornerback Melvin Cunningham, whose 100-yard interception return for a touchdown against James Madison in the quarterfinals set a I-AA playoff record.

Montana senior quarterback Dave Dickenson, 18–2 as a starter, was ranked first in passing efficiency in Division I-AA and second in total offense (345.3 yards per game), behind Alcorn State's Steve McNair, last year. The Grizzlies' offense, which averaged 37.4 points a game in '94, has seven returning starters, while the defense, which held opponents to 19.8 points, has only three. An early-season matchup with Boise State should set the tone for the season.

Senior Kerry Joseph, who is the alltime leading passer (5,389 yards) at **McNeese State**, returns along with four of his top five receivers from last year's quarterfinals team. **Appalachian State** will have the toughest defense in the Southern Conference. Nine starters return, including two All-Americas: senior

On his third day at Eastern Kentucky, quarterback Tommy Luginbill didn't request clean snaps or solid blocking or even a tour of Roy Kidd Stadium from junior center Son Tran. Instead he implored Tran, his summer-school roommate, to drive him to Wal-Mart so he could buy a pair of \$1.50 earplugs. "He snores so loud," says Luginbill, a senior who transferred from Georgia Tech to Division I-AA Eastern in late May. "No one can be a heavy sleeper when he's around."

Luginbill didn't get much sleep last year, either. After playing for two years at Palomar (Calif.) Junior College, where he passed for 4,001 yards en route to the national championship in '93, Luginbill spent a tumultuous season at Georgia Tech. When he earned the starting job before the season, he suffered the wrath of several teammates who supported

ousted starter Donnie Davis. Notes

appeared under Luginbill's door and on his car, saying, in effect, we don't want you here. Then Tech coach Bill Lewis, who coached at Wyoming in the late '70s with Luginbill's father, Al, resigned eight games into the season and was

replaced by former San Diego Charger assistant George O'Leary. "It wasn't a good situation," Luginbill says. "There were a lot of unhappy people. Our team was good enough to go to a bowl game, but things started to snowball, and it got worse and worse."

Indeed, the Yellowjackets finished 1–10.

Luginbill considered transferring to Division II Portland State but was lured to Eastern Kentucky by the Colonels' defensive line coach, Jim Tanara, the brother of a family friend. Said Tran after working out with Luginbill for two weeks, "It's like he's been here four years already."

Luginbill, who completed 182 of 327 passes for 2,128 yards and 14 touchdowns last season for Tech, steps in for John Sacca, who had transferred to Eastern Kentucky from Penn State in '93 and is now with the New York Jets. Luginbill is the latest big-

name player to take advantage of NCAA bylaw 14.5.5.3.11, which allows a football player to transfer from Division I to I-AA without losing a year of eligibility. "I-A is not for every kid," says Colonel coach Roy Kidd. "Once they get to a big school and see the competition, they realize their mistake. We've given them an opportunity to go elsewhere without sitting out."

That opportunity came about because the NCAA allows its divisions to autonomously adopt rule changes that won't affect other divisions. Of course, I-AA's 1993 passage of bylaw 14.5.5.3.11 had the secondary effect of enticing players to leave I-A. So I-A passed a reciprocal rule in '94 (rescinded in '95) allowing I-AA players to transfer up without sitting out a year. While few players transferred up, nearly 60 transferred down before last season. Already Luginbill, Maryland quarterback Kevin Foley (to Boston University) and Kentucky tailback Daymon Carter (to Eastern Kentucky) have moved down this year.

There's always the possibility that when the NCAA convention meets in Dallas in 1996, delegates will continue their cycle of interdivisional backbiting and deny other unhappy I-A players the option of transferring without penalty by rescinding 14.5.5.3.11. But Luginbill, for one, won't lose any sleep over it.

—A.M.

cornerback Matt Stevens (10 interceptions last year) and junior linebacker Dexter Coakley, who had eight sacks.

Eddie Robinson is a paragon of longevity: The 76-year-old **Grambling** coach has won 397 games in 52 seasons. With the Tigers opening the season against Air McNair-less Alcorn State, followed by Hampton and Central State, Robinson should quickly reach his next milestone—he'll become the first coach in NCAA history to amass 400 wins.

**Pennsylvania** is hanging on to a I-AA-record 21-game winning streak, but the Quakers have lost more than half the starters from last year's 9–0 team.

quarterback Shawn Knight, who set the I-AA career record for passing efficiency, but senior tailback Derrick Fitzgerald, a 1,000-yard rusher in 1993, returns after being hampered last season by a knee injury. Fitzgerald joins senior Troy Keen, a tailback who rushed for 1,175 yards last year, and 18 other returning starters.

Like William & Mary, Northern Iowa must replace its quarterback, but junior Matt Waller, who hit 17 of 27 field goals in 1994, is back—as is Idaho defensive coordinator Nick Holt, who changed his mind about leaving Moscow only seconds before boarding a plane that would have taken him to an assistant coaching job at Utah State in January. Thus the Vandals retained not only the architect of I-AA's best rushing defense last year, but also their women's basketball coach, Holt's wife, Julie.

The onus of improving on last year's 10–3 record is on new **James Madison** coach Alex Wood, who has senior quarterback Mike Cawley (2,035 passing yards in '94) returning to run his offense.

The I-AA touchdown leader last season wasn't even the star of his own team, but **South Carolina State** senior tailback Michael Hicks (1,368 yards rushing and 22 TDs) should dominate the highlight films now that Marvin Marshall, the first player in MEAC history to pass and rush for 1,000 yards in a season, has graduated.

In last year's regular season, six points made the difference between an

Luginbill: Tech ex is a Colonel now.

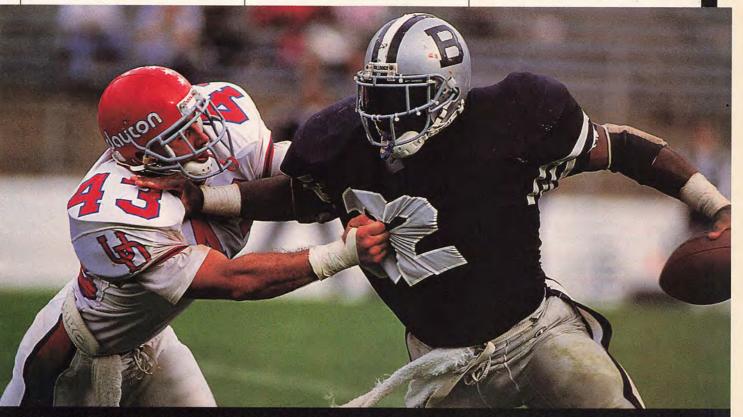
undefeated season and an 8-2-1 record for **Middle Tennessee State**. Although the Blue Raiders lost four-year starter Kelly Holcomb at quarterback, they should return to the playoffs for the sixth time in seven years.

If senior running back Rene Ingoglia of Massachusetts can duplicate last year's 1,505-yard season, the Minutemen—who have 12 starters back—should also make Hens have tailbacks Norman Coleman and Pat Williams to pick up the slack.

Georgia Southern has not been below .500 since reinstituting football in 1982, but three of its last four teams failed to make the I-AA playoffs. Road wins against Marshall and Appalachian State would improve the Eagles' chances of playing in the postseason.

last season after transferring from 1993 champion Florida State. But now that Darin Henshaw, the Knights' alltime leading passer, and David Rhodes, their alltime leading receiver, have graduated, Smith doesn't stand much chance of winning a second championship ring.

**Boston University** now has what Boston College once had—a quarterback named Foley. If Kevin, a junior transfer



Mickens (32), who broke or tied 18 NCAA rushing records last year, will again be a handful for Butler opponents.

it to the playoffs, for the first time since 1990.

With 6'4", 268-pound junior Andy Ziebarth at left tackle, **Illinois State** has one of the strongest offensive lines in Division I-AA. At **Southern**, senior linebacker Kenya Rounds (117 tackles last year) buoys a defense that will have to stop Grambling on Nov. 25 to earn a playoff berth.

The four-year reign of **Delaware** fullback Daryl Brown, the Yankee Conference's alltime leading rusher (4,587 yards) is over, but Tubby Raymond's Blue

Stephen F. Austin, ranked in the Top 25 throughout the regular season last year, missed the playoffs by three seconds, the time it took for North Texas and Youngstown State to hit end-of-the-game field goals for ties. But with 15 starters returning, the Lumberjacks will be back in the hunt, as will Troy State. With senior quarterback Jeremy Rowell and 11 other starters back from last year's 8–4 season, the Trojans will make it to their third consecutive playoffs.

Senior tailback Marquette Smith rushed for 1,058 yards at Central Florida

from Maryland, is anything like his older brother Glenn, who threw for four TDs in a two-point upset over Notre Dame two years ago, the Terriers might be even better than last year's 9–3 team.

Returning from last year's 7–3 **Butler** team is senior running back Arnold Mickens, who rushed for 225.5 yards per game (the most of any back in any division) and broke or tied 18 NCAA rushing records last season. But after Mickens, it's slim pickin's—the Bulldogs have lost 18 starters from last year's team.

-ASHLEY McGEACHY

## Division II

#### THE TOP 25

- 1. North Alabama
- 2. North Dakota State
- 3. Indiana of Pennsylvania
- 4. Texas A&M-Kingsville
- 5. Pittsburg State (Kans.)
- 6. Ferris State (Va.)
- 7. Portland State (Ore.)
- 8. Norfolk State (Va.)
- 9. Carson-Newman (Tenn.)
- 10. Albany State (Ga.)
- 11. Mankato State (Minn.)
- 12. Northeast Missouri State
- 13. Grand Valley State (Mich.)
- 14. Missouri Southern
- 15. West Georgia
- 16. Bloomsburg (Pa.)
- 17. New Haven (Conn.)
- 18. Edinboro (Pa.)
- 19. North Dakota
- 20. Central Arkansas
- 21. Saginaw Valley State (Mich.)
- 22. Eastern New Mexico
- 23. Angelo State (Texas)
- 24. Western State (Colo.)
- 25. Bentley (Mass.)

In 1983, Southwest Texas State fell short. Four years later, North Dakota State suffered the same fate. Both sought to become the first Division II team to win three straight NCAA championships, but both fell short.

Enter North Alabama. The Lions, twotime national champions, have 19 starters returning. And not only that; the permanent site of the Division II title game is Braly Stadium, where North Alabama plays. Talk about home field advantage, and talk about big-time pressure. "It's getting to the point," says coach Bobby Wallace, "where people here almost expect a championship."

Wallace isn't asking for sympathy. And with the team he's got, he isn't going to get any. How good are the Lions? Last year the defense shut out three of its first four opponents, which still wasn't enough to satisfy senior linebacker Keith Humphrey. "We would have had more goose eggs," he says, "but Coach Wallace kept taking us out after three quarters."

Humphrey and senior linebacker Ronald McKinnon—CNN's 1994 Division II Player of the Year—are the heart of a defense whose nickname reflects its philosophy: the Purple Swarm. Humphrey loves it. "People enjoy watching the defense more than the offense," he says.

Even senior quarterback Cody Gross, whom the locals compare to former Alabama QB Jay Barker because of his dependability and 28–2 record as a starter, admits that the offense sometimes plays, well, defensively. "We just try to control the ball and not turn it over," says Gross.

Humphrey and Gross are perfect symbols for their respective units. Humphrey, who made 21 tackles for losses in '94, sports gold chains, a bald head and a mouth that could run the 40 in 4.2. "Some people lead by actions," he says. "I'm more of a leader by mouth."

Unlike Humphrey, who harbors ambitions to play in the pros, the closest Gross comes to any notion of getting into the NFL is owning season tickets for Atlanta Falcon games. The Alabama native plans to be a teacher and football coach in his hometown of Anderson (pop. 440), which is so small the mayor cuts his hair. "And that's not even a big deal," Gross says, "because no one knows who the mayor is." If Gross leads the Lions to a third straight NCAA crown, his own life will become a little less anonymous.

Imagine losing to your pesky twin brother in arm-wrestling—first righthanded, then lefthanded. That's how North Dakota State coach Rocky Hager felt last year after his Bison team fell to rival North Dakota in both the regular season and the playoffs. "That was tough to take," Hager says. "But the disdain for them as people isn't there." The disdain for losing to them is, though. So the Bison will expect a mighty effort from their up-the-gut strength: sophomore running back Jake Morris, junior quarterback Rob Hyland and senior center Brad Servais, whose older brother,



Star-studded North Alabama is led by Gross (15), who's 28-2 as a starter.

Scott, is a catcher for the Chicago Cubs.

When perennial power Indiana of Pennsylvania started last season 1–2, senior tailback Dennis Robinson felt he was in the twilight zone. A month earlier he had transferred from Kent, where losing is a way of life. "I was like, I can't go through this again," he says. So Robinson made things happen. In the next game, a 20–13 win at Shippensburg, Robinson rushed 189 yards, the second of 10 consecutive 100-yard games. "His production turned our season around," says coach Frank Cignetti.

The Indians won nine straight before

bowing in the semifinals to Texas

A&M-Kingsville. If the Javelinas are to
return to the championship game, they
will have to find a replacement for
quarterback Joe Menchaca, who
graduated in May. Senior quarterback
Wilson Scott should get the nod over
sophomore Oktay Basci, but even senior
running back Wesley Whiten is a
candidate. A running back? Yes, that's
how muddy the situation is.

At Pittsburg (Kans.) State, where senior Jeff Moreland is 18-1-1 as a starter, the quarterback situation couldn't be clearer. "He always makes the right decisions,"

offensive tackle Phil Schepens says. "Just like in nursing—you can't second-guess yourself, because it may mean someone's life." Nursing? That's Moreland's major. "No one teases me about it," he says. "But they do treat me like a second trainer."

When Ferris (Mich.) State players shout "E-P-E-P!" fans don't reply, "Phone home." The letters, which stand for "Every player, every play," inspire the Bulldogs to give 100%, which has never been a problem for senior All-America linebacker Mike Brooks or prolific senior quarterback Bill Love, the team's two best players.

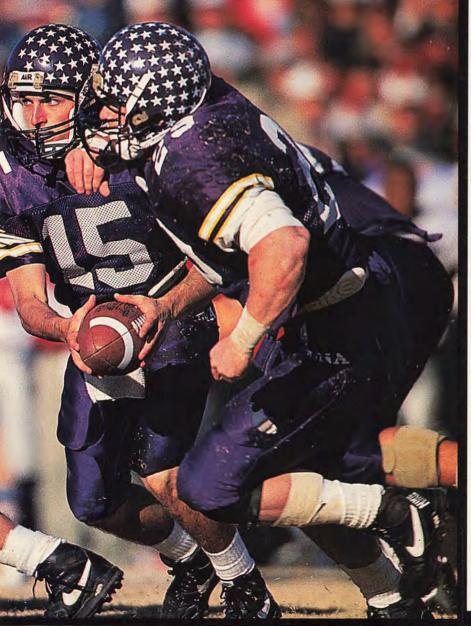
Portland (Ore.) State, which has decided to upgrade its program to I-AA in 1996–97, may be getting ahead of itself. The Vikings will have their hands full this fall with a schedule that includes two teams that made the I-AA playoffs last season.

Aaron Sparrow originally signed with Virginia; James Roe initially committed to Syracuse. But when neither qualified academically, they headed to Norfolk (Va.) State, where they form Division II's top quarterback-to-wide-receiver combination. In '94, "Airin'" Sparrow threw for 3,212 yards; Roe's 77 receptions accounted for 1,454 of those yards.

Carson-Newman's only problem is its Jefferson City, Tenn., location. As a team in the Southern region, the Eagles have had to face mighty North Alabama in the playoffs the last two seasons. In '93 the Eagles lost to the Lions 38–28; a year ago they fell short again, 17–13.

Last season Albany (Ga.) State was shut out by West Georgia. In their other 10 games, the Golden Rams averaged more than 37 points. Expect even more firepower from senior quarterback Sultan Cooper and friends this season. Mankato (Minn.) State junior quarterback John Hebgen is equally adept at giving and receiving: He threw for more than 3,000 yards last season and was the starting catcher on the baseball team.

How good is Northeast Missouri State running back Jarrett Anderson, who ran for 1,428 yards as a sophomore in '94? "He runs very similar to Barry Sanders," says Bulldog coach John Ware.



#### HEART

When North Dakota State players gather for pep talks before games, the sessions take on a special feel as junior tight end Eric Heismeyer speaks. "On more than one occasion," says Bison coach Rocky Hager, "he has said that he knows what it means to be one play away from your career being over." That's because last year Heismeyer was a few minutes away from his *life* being over.

In February 1994, during winter drills, the 6'5", 256-pound Heismeyer

was taken to an emergency room in Fargo after feeling woozy. Doctors told him that his heart was racing out of control, at about 170 beats per minute. They got him out of danger, but said the only longterm solution was a procedure in which his heart would be stopped and restarted, to get its rhythm regulated. Before the operation, Heismeyer told his parents, Willard and Gail, he didn't know if he'd see them again. "I told them if it was my time, it was my time," he recalls.

The first time Munger tried to restart Heismeyer's heart, he failed. So Munger turned up the heat on the paddles that deliver the electric jolts to the heart, and tried again. No go. He tried again; Heismeyer's massive chest muscles were resisting the shock. On the fourth try, Heismeyer's heart started beating.

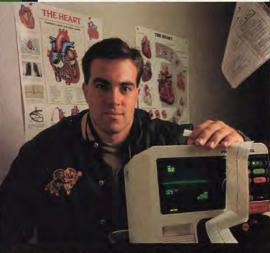
Football for him was put on hold until last May, when Munger allowed Heismeyer to work out. This fall he's starting. "For Eric to be playing again is a miracle," says Hager.

Heart problems run in Heismeyer's family, and Eric suspects his condition was exacerbated by an addiction to caffeine. But he no longer needs anything artificial to pump himself up; he just looks in the mirror. As for his teammates, they just soak up his words.

—T. G.

In his previous four years at Grand Valley (Mich.) State, coach Brian Kelly has never had a returning starter at quarterback. This year he has three, and they're all seniors: Eric Stover, Kwame McKinnon and goal line specialist Nick Ceglarek. Are Missouri Southern players allergic to exit signs? The Lions last year were 5–0 at Hughes Stadium and 0–5 on the road. Senior Albert Bland, who rushed for more than 1,500 yards in '94, will try to make them feel at home.

Although West Georgia plays in Grisham Stadium, its strategy is no



Heismeyer came back from fourth-and-long.

mystery—get the ball to wide receiver Chad Walker. A 6'2", 190-pound senior, Walker touched the ball 28 times last season and scored 12 touchdowns. Bloomsburg (Pa.) tailback Mike Johnson ran for more than 1,000 yards last season as a junior, but the NFL scouts populating Redman Stadium had their eyes on his classmate and backfield mate Syheed Brooks, a ferocious blocker who averaged almost six yards per carry.

At New Haven, players know how to get off the ground. The Chargers hit the road for seven of 10 games last season, jetting to Georgia, Tennessee and Texas. Junior running back Michael Joseph will try to keep their attack on the ground this season.

The Edinboro (Pa.) Fighting Scots will vie for their sixth consecutive Top 20

finish, but they will do so without a single player named Scott. If North Dakota's pro-set offense stumbles, the Fighting Sioux can turn to punter Roger Bahl, a senior aviation major who knows all about hang time.

After moving from NAIA to Division II in 1993, Central Arkansas is finally eligible for the playoffs. A pair of green quarterbacks, sophomore Chris Freeman and redshirt freshman Chad Moran, will try to get them there.

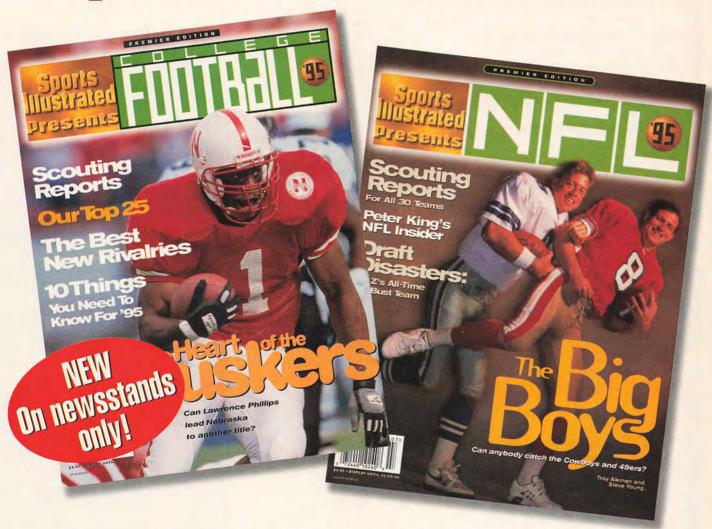
Saginaw Valley (Mich.) State, which last season had the highest-scoring offense in school history (29.4 points per game), will again be led by quarterback Robert Reeves. The only thing Eastern New Mexico senior defensive back Conrad Hamilton didn't do last season was carry the water bottles. Hamilton had four interceptions, four sacks, three fumble recoveries and three blocked kicks.

Angelo (Texas) State coach Jerry Vandergriff is hoping the experiences of Jurome Lee rub off on the other players. Lee, a junior running back, transferred from Trinity Valley (Texas) Junior College, which won the 1994 national juco championship.

How tough is it to crack the starting lineup at quarterback for Western (Colo.) State? As a freshman in '93, Jason Davis earned national player of the week honors after he hit 21 of 30 passes for 346 yards and six TDs against Western Montana. The next week, he hit the bench and stayed there the rest of the season. Now the job is Davis's to lose.

Reading about Bentley (Mass.) is like reading about mythical New York Met pitcher Sidd Finch, with one exception: Everything they say about Bentley is true. The Falcon defense surrendered just six points a game last season. The quarterback, Mike Rymsha, is 17-0 as a starter. The coach, Peter Yetten, doubles as the gym teacher at Waltham (Mass.) High School. The school offers no scholarships and gained varsity status only seven years ago. A weak schedule, however, will once again keep Bentley from receiving an invitation to the playoffs. -TEDDY GREENSTEIN

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## Division III

#### THE TOP 25

- 1. Mount Union (Ohio)
- 2. Albion (Mich.)
- 3. St. John's (Minn.)
- 4. Washington & Jefferson (Pa.)
- 5. Central (lowa)
- 6. Augustana (III.)
- 7. Wisconsin-LaCrosse
- 8. Widener (Pa.)
- 9. Baldwin-Wallace (Ohio)
- 10. Ithaca (N.Y.)
- 11. Trinity (Texas)
- 12. Rowan (NJ.)
- 13. Wartburg (lowa)
- 14. Plymouth State (N.H.)
- 15. Allegheny (Pa.)
- 16. La Verne (Calif.)
- 17. Catholic (Washington, D.C.)
- 18. John Carroll (Ohio)
- 19. Buffalo State
- 20. Wisconsin-Stevens Point
- 21. Cortland State (N.Y.)
- 22. Dickinson (Pa.)
- 23. St. Thomas (Minn.)
- 24. Ohio Wesleyan
- 25. Chapman (Calif.)

When most people think of college football powerhouses, they think of the Cornhuskers or the Crimson Tide or the Fighting Irish. Few think of the Purple Raiders or the Britons or the Flying Dutchmen. So here's a simple phrase to help adjust those attitudes: Small schools equal big dynasties.

Five of the 10 teams with the best winning percentages in college football during the 1990s are from Division III. The top Division I-A school, Florida State, is only seventh on the list, behind four Division III schools with a

combined enrollment of 6,500—roughly the size of the senior class at FSU.

Since the beginning of the decade,

Mount Union College of Alliance, Ohio,
has a 54-5-1 record and a .908 winning
percentage, the best in the nation. Expect
that tradition of excellence to continue, as
the Purple Raiders have the firepower to
be No. 1 in Division III in '95.

Last season Mount Union's projected starting quarterback quit the team four days before the season opener, giving freshman Bill Borchert the job. Borchert responded by setting an NCAA freshman record for touchdown passes, with 26, while throwing only six interceptions. With a year of experience, he should be even better.

Four of five starters on the offensive line return to protect Borchert, and sophomore tight end Brian Tyla, one of the team's biggest surprises in '94, will also be back. Tyla had never played tight end before last season, and basketball—not football—was his best sport. "He moves really well, and with all his basketball experience, he does a great job of getting in the seams of zone defenses," says coach Larry Kehres. "He really transferred his skills well." Well enough to catch 25 passes, three for TDs, even though he split time at the position.

Rest assured that Tyla will be getting most of the time this year in an offense Kehres calls "eclectic." Says Kehres, "We throw the ball a lot, use a lot of play-action passes. I hate to describe it as finesse, but that's what we play. It's a sissy offense." For a sissy offense, it puts a lot of points on the board—more than 35 a game last year.

Defense is the big question for the Purple Raiders this year. Last season their opponents averaged just 9.5 points a game, but only four starters return. They will look to three seniors—tackle Matt Liggett, end Jeff Starkey and safety Mike Malchesky—to hold the defense together until the younger players mature.

The program's winning tradition gives the players something to shoot for. "I think the biggest challenge after winning a national title, as we did in 1993, is creating a standard in the minds of the players that they can measure their success by," says Kehres. "When players are used to winning, they will work very hard to put themselves in a position to



win again." And no team is more used to winning than Mount Union.

**Albion** squeaked past Mount Union last year in the national quarterfinals 34–33 as the team rolled to the school's first national championship in any sport.

Albion might have a hard time finding the motivation to defend its title after being driven by a Nolan Richardson–like "we don't get any respect" notion last season. (Albion had made it into few preseason Top 25 lists.) The Britons' loss of their outstanding tailback Jeff Robinson, who graduated in May, will

make repeating even more difficult. But Albion still has loads of talent. If the backfield can produce, the Britons have an excellent shot at making it to the Stagg Bowl once again.

That's the Stagg Bowl, as in Amos Alonzo Stagg, the man whom John Gagliardi of **St. John's** in Minnesota passed in career coaching victories (317 to 314) last season. Gagliardi is seven victories shy of eclipsing Bear Bryant's total to become the second-winningest coach in college football history, behind Grambling's Eddie Robinson (397). And

while Gagliardi's career has been filled with success, a fourth national title would be a good way to celebrate passing the Bear. Junior quarterback Kurt Ramler, who threw 22 TD passes and only four interceptions after taking over for the Johnnies in the fourth game last year, returns to lead the offense.

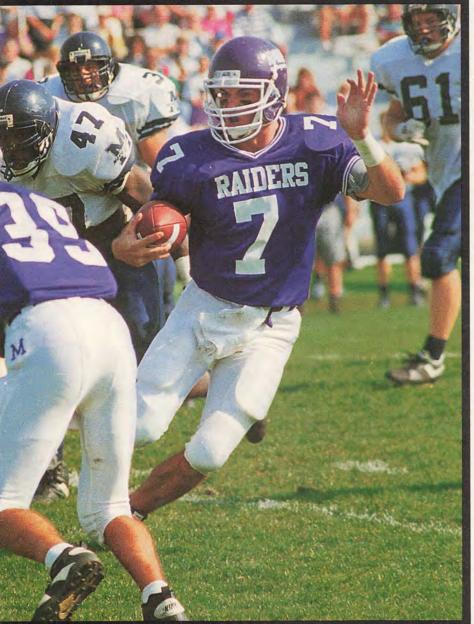
Washington & Jefferson is searching for its first national title after winning nine straight President's Athletic Conference titles and making six consecutive playoff appearances. But how many Division III teams can boast that they were once Rose Bowl cochamps? In 1922, W & J tied California 0–0 in Pasadena. But past glory isn't what motivates the Presidents. They want to avenge their 38–15 title-game loss to Albion last year. Having 18 starters returning from last year's squad is a good way to begin.

The best player in Division III will try to carry **Central** to the top this year. Mark Kacmarynski, who averaged 174.1 yards per game last season, is the leading returning rusher in the division. The biggest class of returning seniors in school history, 33 players, is hoping to bring Central and coach Ron Schipper a second national title (the last was in '74) to go with the 34 consecutive winning seasons the Flying Dutchmen have put together under his guidance.

Augustana of Illinois won four straight national titles in the mid-1980s, and the team seems poised for a strong postseason run again. All-America linebacker Rusty VanWetzings will lead the defense.

Offense is the big challenge for **Wisconsin-LaCrosse**, which needs a better ground game to make a run in the playoffs. Fortunately, the Eagles have eight starters back from last year's 8–2 team.

Senior quarterback Vic Ameye will run the **Widener** offense again. Last year Ameye (1,236 yards passing and nine touchdowns) was a finalist for the Gagliardi Trophy (which honors the Division III Player of the Year) even though he injured his right knee at the end of October and



With Borchert (7) a seasoned soph, the Mount Union dynasty should live on.

#### THE NOT-SO-GREAT SCOTS

"I tried to get a brain from someone in the biology department, but they wouldn't give me one," says Tom Bell, the coach at Macalester College in St. Paul. Not that Bell doesn't have a brain; he wanted an extra one so he could award it to the winner of the Brain Bowl, the annual game between Macalester and Carleton College of Northfield, Minn.

Winning the Brain Bowl-or any other game, for that matter-would be an unusual occurrence for Macalester. From 1974 to '80 the team established the NCAA all-division record for consecutive losses, with 50. The Scots are creeping up on that mark again, having lost 38 straight games. Their dubious place in history, however, is in jeopardy as Division I-AA Prairie View will begin the season as losers of 46 games in a row. "I don't wish breaking our record on anybody," says Bell, in his second year as coach. "But if they do, that will get our name out of the record books. I just hope we don't tie our own record, because then we would

This year Macalester expects help from 40 freshmen—its biggest recruiting class ever. But it's likely that the school's top-20 liberal arts curriculum was a bigger draw than its football program.

be in there twice."

Macalester is a place where student-athletes like junior quarterback Nathaniel Eyde can thrive. Eyde, who led his high school team to a Michigan state title, is also a dancer who has showcased his talents in both concerts and plays at Macalester. But the prospect of finally winning a game at Macalester excites Eyde more than anything else. Says Eyde, who is expecting a win sometime this season, "It will be the biggest thing that has ever happened to me."

missed the rest of the Pioneers' season.

Baldwin-Wallace might be the best team in the nation that doesn't make the playoffs—unless the Yellow Jackets can knock off Mount Union and win the Ohio Athletic Conference title. Ithaca College will have to replace all 11 offensive starters from its 10–3 team of a year ago. But the Bombers' defense, which allowed only 12.9 points a game and has 13 lettermen returning, will carry them.

A favorable schedule will help **Trinity** continue its recent success—the Tigers



A Macalester win would give Eyde a big lift.

play eight of their 10 games at home this season. Rowan missed the playoffs last year after three straight postseason appearances, but linebackers P.J. Mehigan and LeRoi Jones should lead the Profs back. All-America defensive lineman Vince Penningroth returns for Wartburg, which will challenge Central in the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Last year **Plymouth State** became the first New England team to host an NCAA Division III playoff game. There's a decent chance linebacker Colby Compton and the rest of the Panthers will make it two in a row. Perennial powerhouse **Allegheny** will have a bit of a down year after losing all but seven starters, but it still should win the North Coast Athletic Conference and make the playoffs.

Quarterback Ryan Campuzano, the seventh-rated quarterback in Division III in 1994, will lead a high-powered offense for **La Verne** again. **Catholic** matched the biggest single-season turnaround in the division's history, going from 1–9 in 1993 to 8–2 last year. This season the Cardinals have a shot at making the playoffs for the first time.

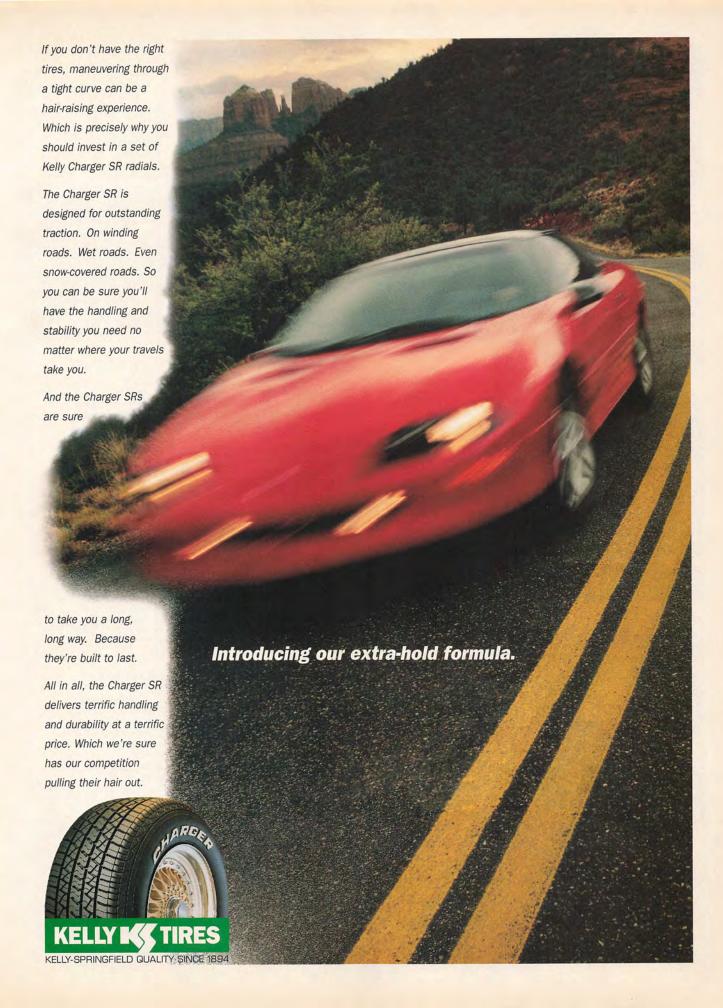
All-America kicker Jason Goldberg of John Carroll missed only twice from inside 40 yards last year. The Blue Streaks, who face a tough conference schedule that includes Mount Union and Baldwin-Wallace, will need him to continue his fine footwork. Buffalo State will find out right away how good it is. The Bengals open the season with three road games, including a visit to W & J.

Wisconsin-Stevens Point has gone 15-5 the past two seasons but has nothing to show for it. Junior quarterback Tom Fitzgerald, who had 221.9 yards of total offense per game last year, will try to change the team's postseason luck. Cortland State missed the playoffs last season for the fourth year in a row. The Red Dragons have 16 starters returning and could be back in the postseason tournament. Senior running back Chris Hughes of Dickinson rushed for 885 yards in five games last year before a season-ending knee injury. This year he should be one of the best backs in the country.

St. Thomas of Minnesota struggled to a 4–6 record in '94, but its All-America tight end, Ryan Davis, should help the Tommies have a winning season this year. Ohio Wesleyan could end Allegheny's North Coast Athletic Conference winning streak in 1995. The Battling Bishops will need to replace three starters on both the offensive and defensive lines to have a chance to knock off the Gators.

This is only the second year of the revival of football at **Chapman**, but with a little luck the Panthers could find themselves in the playoffs. Their hopes lie with Curtis Robinson, their outstanding senior quarterback.

-MARK McClusky





## A-C

#### AIR FORCE

Sept. 2 BYU

9 WYOMING

16 COLORADO STATE

23 at Northwestern

30 at New Mexico

Oct. 7 UTEP

14 at Navv

21 at Utah

28 at Fresno State

Nov. 11 ARMY

18 NOTRE DAME

25 at Hawaii

#### AKRON

Sept. 2 EASTERN MICHIGAN

16 at Bowling Green

23 at Kansas State

30 CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Oct. 7 at Western Michigan

14 at Virginia Tech

21 OHIO 28 KENT

ALABAMA

Nov. 4 YOUNGSTOWN STATE

9 SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

11 at Toledo

Sept. 2 at Vanderbilt

18 at Miami (Ohio)

16 ARKANSAS

14 TENNESSEE

21 at Mississippi

28 North Texas

18 at Auburn

16 at Illinois

30 CALIFORNIA

21 WASHINGTON

24 at Arizona State

28 at Washington State

23 USC

11 MISSISSIPPI STATE

7 GEORGIA TECH

30 at Georgia

#### AUBURN

ARMY

Sept. 9 LEHIGH

16 DUKE

30 RICE

28 COLGATE

Nov. 4 EAST CAROLINA

11 at Air Force

18 BUCKNELL

Dec. 2 NAVY (at Philadelphia)

Sept. 2 MISSISSIPPI 9 TENN.-CHATTANOOGA

ARKANSAS

Sept. 2 at SMU

9 SOUTH CAROLINA

23 MEMPHIS (at Little Rock)

14 at Mississippi (at Memphis)

11 SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA

28 AUBURN (at Little Rock)

16 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

23 at Louisiana Tech

Oct. 7 SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA

28 JACKSONVILLE STATE

30 at Minnesota

14 at Texas Tech

Nov. 4 SAN JOSE STATE

23 at Washington

Oct. 14 NOTRE DAME (at E. Rutherford, N.J.)

21 at Boston College

11 at Northern Illinois

18 MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

Nov. 4 MISS. ST. (at Little Rock)

16 at Alabama

30 at Vanderbilt

Oct. 7 TENNESSEE

18 at LSU

ARKANSAS STATE

Sept. 2 UTAH STATE

9 at UNLV

16 at LSU

30 at Kentucky

Oct. 5 MISSISSIPPI STATE

14 FLORIDA 21 WESTERN MICHIGAN

28 ARKANSAS (at Little Rock)

Nov. 4 NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

11 at Georgia

18 ALABAMA

#### BOSTON COLLEGE

Aug. 27 Ohio St. (at East Rutherford, N.J.)

Sept. 7 at Virginia Tech

16 MICHIGAN

30 at Michigan State

Oct. 7 PITTSBURGH

14 WEST VIRGINIA

21 ARMY

28 at Notre Dame

Nov. 4 at Temple

11 MIAMI

18 at Syracuse

24 at Rutgers

**BOWLING GREEN** Aug. 31 LOUISIANA TECH

Sept. 9 at Missouri

16 AKRON

23 at Central Michigan

30 at Temple

Oct. 7 MIAMI (OHIO)

14 at Ball State

21 TOLEDO

28 at Western Michigan Nov. 4 OHIO

11 at Kent

#### BYU

Sept. 2 at Air Force

9 UCLA

16 SAN DIEGO STATE 30 at Colorado State

Oct. 14 at Arizona State

21 WYOMING

28 HAWAII

Nov. 4 TULSA

11 at New Mexico

18 UTAH

25 at Fresno State

#### CALIFORNIA

Sept. 2 at San Diego State

9 FRESNO STATE

23 SAN JOSE STATE

30 at Arizona

Oct. 7 USC

14 OREGON

21 at Oregon State

28 at UCLA

Nov. 4 WASHINGTON STATE

11 ARIZONA STATE

18 at Stanford

#### BALL STATE

Aug. 31 at Miami (Ohio)

Sept. 9 WESTERN ILLINOIS

16 at Minnesota

23 WESTERN MICHIGAN

30 at Purdue

Oct. 7 at Toledo

14 BOWLING GREEN

21 EASTERN MICHIGAN

28 at Ohio

Nov. 4 at Kent

11 CENTRAL MICHIGAN

#### CENTRAL MICHIGAN Sept. 9 WEBER STATE

16 at East Carolina

23 BOWLING GREEN

30 at Akron

Oct. 7 at Eastern Michigan

14 at Youngstown State

21 KENT

28 MIAMI (OHIO)

Nov. 4 TOLEDO

11 at Ball State

18 at Western Michigan

#### ARIZONA STATE

Sept. 2 at Washington

11 OREGON

9 UTEP

16 at Nebraska 23 OREGON STATE

30 at USC

Oct. 7 STANFORD

14 BYU 28 at Oregon

Nov. 4 UCLA 11 at California

24 ARIZONA

#### BAYLOR

Sept. 2 at Tulsa

16 MISSISSIPPI STATE 23 at North Carolina State

30 TEXAS TECH

Oct. 14 at Houston

21 TEXAS A&M 28 TCU

Nov. 4 at Miami

11 at SMU 18 RICE

23 at Texas

#### CINCINNATI

Sept. 2 at Kansas

9 KANSAS STATE

16 at Virginia Tech

23 at Miami (Ohio) 30 TOLEDO

Oct. 7 EAST CAROLINA

14 SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI 21 MEMPHIS

28 at Northern Illinois

Nov. 11 at Kentucky

18 at Tulsa

#### CLEMSON

Sept. 2 WESTERN CAROLINA

9 FLORIDA STATE

16 at Wake Forest

23 VIRGINIA

30 at North Carolina State

Oct. 7 GEORGIA

21 at Maryland

28 at Georgia Tech

Nov. 4 NORTH CAROLINA

18 at South Carolina

EASTERN MICHIGAN

Sept. 2 at Akron

9 at Pittsburgh

16 UNLV 23 OHIO

Oct. 7 CENTRAL MICHIGAN

14 at Syracuse

21 at Ball State

28 at Toledo

Nov. 4 at Miami (Ohio)

11 WESTERN MICHIGAN

18 at Kent



#### IOWA STATE

Aug. 31 OHIO

Sept. 9 at TCU

16 IOWA

23 UNLV

Oct. 7 OKLAHOMA 14 at Kansas

21 COLORADO

28 OKLAHOMA STATE

11 KANSAS STATE

18 at Missouri

#### COLORADO

Sept. 2 at Wisconsin

9 COLORADO STATE

16 NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

23 TEXAS A&M

30 at Oklahoma

Oct. 7 KANSAS

21 at Iowa State

28 NEBRASKA

Nov. 4 at Oklahoma State

11 MISSOURI

18 at Kansas State

Sept. 2 HOUSTON

9 at Kentucky

30 MISSISSIPPI

Oct. 7 at LSU

28 at Georgia

Nov. 4 NORTHERN ILLINOIS

18 VANDERBILT

25 FLORIDA STATE

#### HAWAII

Sept. 2 TEXAS

16 at Wyoming

23 UTEP

30 at UNLV

Oct. 14 at New Mexico

21 CENTRAL FLORIDA

28 at BYU

Nov. 4 FRESNO STATE

11 at Colorado State

18 SAN DIEGO STATE

25 AIR FORCE

Dec. 2 OKLAHOMA STATE

#### KANSAS

Sept. 2 CINCINNATI

9 NORTH TEXAS (at Irving, Texas)

14 TCU

23 HOUSTON

Oct. 7 at Colorado

14 IOWA STATE

21 at Oklahoma

28 at Kansas State

Nov. 4 MISSOURI

11 NEBRASKA

18 at Oklahoma State

#### COLORADO STATE

Sept. 2 MONTANA STATE

9 at Colorado

16 at Air Force

30 BYU

Oct. 7 at Utah State

14 at Utah

21 NEW MEXICO 28 at Wyoming

Nov. 4 UTEP

11 HAWAII

25 at San Diego State

#### FLORIDA STATE

9 at Clemson

16 NORTH CAROLINA STATE

23 CENTRAL FLORIDA

14 WAKE FOREST

21 GEORGIA TECH

11 at North Carolina

18 MARYLAND 25 at Florida

#### HOUSTON

Sept. 2 at Florida

9 LOUISIANA TECH

16 at USC

23 at Kansas

Oct. 7 at TCU

14 BAYLOR

21 SMU 28 at Texas A&M

Nov. 11 TEXAS 25 TEXAS TECH

Dec. 2 at RICE

#### KANSAS STATE

Sept. 2 TEMPLE

9 at Cincinnati

23 AKRON

30 NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Oct. 7 MISSOURI

14 at Oklahoma State

21 at Nebraska

28 KANSAS

Nov. 4 OKLAHOMA

11 at Iowa State

18 COLORADO

FRESNO STATE Sept. 2 NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

16 PACIFIC

30 at UCLA Oct. 7 NEW MEXICO

14 at San Diego State

Nov. 4 at Hawaii

11 LITEP 18 at Wyoming

#### ILLINOIS

Sept. 2 MICHIGAN

9 at Oregon

23 EAST CAROLINA

Oct. 7 at Indiana

14 MICHIGAN STATE

Nov. 4 at lowa

18 MINNESOTA 25 at Wisconsin

#### KENT

Sept. 2 YOUNGSTOWN STATE

9 MIAMI (OHIO)

16 at Ohio

23 at West Virginia

30 WESTERN MICHIGAN

Oct. 7 at South Carolina

21 at Central Michigan

28 at Akron

Sept. 2 LOUISVILLE

9 FLORIDA

23 at South Carolina

28 at Mississippi State

16 at Indiana

30 AUBURN

21 at Georgia

11 CINCINNATI

18 TENNESSEE

Nov. 4 at Vanderbilt

KENTUCKY

Oct. 14 LSU

Nov. 4 BALL STATE

11 BOWLING GREEN 18 EASTERN MICHIGAN

DUKE Sept. 2 FLORIDA STATE (at Orlando)

9 RUTGERS

23 at Maryland

28 WAKE FOREST

18 at North Carolina

30 NAVY

Nov. 11 at Clemson

EAST CAROLINA

Sept. 2 at Tennessee

23 at Illinois

Oct. 7 at Cincinnati

21 TEMPLE

9 at Syracuse

30 WEST VIRGINIA

16 CENTRAL MICHIGAN

28 at Southern Mississippi

14 at Virginia 21 NORTH CAROLINA STATE

Sept. 2 SOUTH CAROLINA

9 at Tennessee 16 NEW MEXICO STATE

23 at Mississippi 30 ALABAMA

Oct. 7 at Clemson

21 KENTUCKY

Nov. 11 AUBURN

IOWA

16 at Iowa State 30 NEW MEXICO STATE

Oct. 7 at Michigan State

21 PENN STATE

Nov. 4 ILLINOIS 11 at Northwestern

25 MINNESOTA

Sept. 9 WESTERN MICHIGAN

16 KENTUCKY 23 SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

30 at Northwestern

Oct. 7 ILLINOIS

14 at lowa 21 MICHIGAN

Nov. 11 MICHIGAN STATE 18 at Ohio State 24 PURDUE

LSU

Sept. 2 at Texas A&M 9 at Mississippi State

16 AUBURN

23 RICE

30 at South Carolina

14 at Kentucky

21 NORTH TEXAS

Nov. 4 at Alabama 11 MISSISSIPPI

D-G

16 at Army

Oct. 7 GEORGIA TECH

GEORGIA

28 FLORIDA

GEORGIA TECH

16 at Virginia

28 MARYLAND

21 at Florida State

23 GEORGIA

28 CLEMSON

Sept. 9 NORTHERN IOWA

28 at Ohio State

18 at Wisconsin

18 ARKANSAS

Nov. 4 at Army 11 TULSA

18 MEMPHIS

11 DUKE

FLORIDA

16 TENNESSEE

14 at Auburn

11 at South Carolina

Sept. 2 DUKE (at Orlando)

Oct. 7 MIAMI

Nov. 2 at Virginia

9 at California

23 at Utah

28 AIR FORCE

25 BYU

14 at Vanderbilt

23 at Georgia Tech

Sept. 2 FURMAN 7 at Arizona

Oct. 7 at Duke 14 NORTH CAROLINA

Nov. 4 at Wake Forest 11 NORTH CAROLINA STATE

16 ARIZONA

28 NORTHWESTERN

11 at Ohio State

INDIANA

28 at Penn State

14 INDIANA

Oct. 7 FLORIDA

#### LOUISIANA TECH

Aug. 31 at Bowling Green

Sept. 9 at Houston

16 at South Carolina

23 ARKANSAS STATE

30 TULSA (at Shreveport, La.)

Oct. 7 at New Mexico State

14 at Pacific

21 NEVADA

Sept. 2 at Kentucky

30 at Memphis

14 at Wyoming

28 MARYLAND

Nov. 4 at Southwestern Louisiana

11 at Vanderbilt

18 NORTHERN ILLINOIS

9 at Northern Illinois

16 MICHIGAN STATE

Oct. 7 at Southern Mississippi

18 NORTH TEXAS

21 NORTH CAROLINA

Sept. 2 at Illinois 9 MEMPHIS

MICHIGAN

Aug. 26 VIRGINIA

16 at Boston College

30 MIAMI (OHIO)

Oct. 7 NORTHWESTERN

21 at Indiana

28 MINNESOTA

Nov. 4 at Michigan State

11 PURDUE

MICHIGAN STATE

Oct. 7 IOWA

Sent 9 NERRASKA

18 at Penn State

25 OHIO STATE

16 at Louisville

30 BOSTON COLLEGE

23 at Purdue

14 at Illinois

Nov. 4 MICHIGAN

11 at Indiana

21 MINNESOTA

28 at Wisconsin

25 PENN STATE

NAVY

Sept. 9 at SMU

16 at Rutgers

23 WAKE FOREST

N-R

30 at Duke

Oct. 7 VIRGINIA TECH

14 AIR FORCE

21 VILLANOVA

Nov. 4 at Notre Dame

11 DELAWARE

18 TULANE

Dec. 2 ARMY (at Philadelphia)

NORTH CAROLINA STATE

Aug. 31 MARSHALL

Sept. 9 VIRGINIA

16 at Florida State

NORTH CAROLINA

Sept. 2 SYRACUSE

30 OHIO

Nov. 4 at Clemson

18 DUKE

Oct. 7 VIRGINIA

9 at Maryland

14 at Georgia Tech

21 WAKE FOREST

11 FLORIDA STATE

24 at North Carolina State

21 at Louisville

23 BAYLOR

30 CLEMSON

Oct. 7 at Alabama

21 at Duke

Nov. 4 MARYLAND

11 at Georgia Tech

18 at Wake Forest

24 NORTH CAROLINA

#### MARYLAND

LOUISVILLE

Sept. 2 at Tulane

NOV 4 TULANE

9 NORTH CAROLINA

11 NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

16 WEST VIRGINIA

23 DUKE

28 at Georgia Tech

Oct. 7 at Wake Forest

21 CLEMSON

28 at Louisville

Nov. 4 at North Carolina State

11 VIRGINIA

18 at Florida State

MINNESOTA

Sept. 16 BALL STATE

23 at Syracuse

30 ARKANSAS STATE

Oct. 7 PURDUE

14 NORTHWESTERN

21 at Michigan State

28 at Michigan Nov. 4 OHIO STATE

11 WISCONSIN

18 at Illinois

25 at lowa

NEBRASKA

Aug. 31 at Oklahoma State

Sept. 9 at Michigan State

16 ARIZONA STATE

23 PACIFIC

30 WASHINGTON STATE

Sept. 2 SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA

28 at San Diego State

21 at Louisiana Tech

9 at New Mexico State

14 NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

Oct. 14 MISSOURI

21 KANSAS STATE

28 at Colorado

Nov. 4 IOWA STATE

11 at Kansas

23 TOLEDO

Oct. 7 NORTH TEXAS

24 OKLAHOMA

NORTH TEXAS

Sept. 2 at Missouri

9 KANSAS (at Irving, Texas)

16 OREGON STATE

23 at Oklahoma

Oct. 7 at Nevada

14 ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM

21 at LSU

28 at Alabama

Nov. 4 at UNLV

11 IDAHO STATE

18 at Louisville

#### MEMPHIS

Sept. 2 at Mississippi State

9 at Michigan

16 SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA

23 ARKANSAS (at Little Rock)

30 LOUISVILLE

Oct. 14 at Tulane

21 at Cincinnati

28 TULSA

Nov. 4 MISSISSIPPI

11 SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI Sept. 2 at Auburn

9 INDIANA STATE

23 GEORGIA

30 at Florida

Oct. 7 TULANE 14 ARKANSAS (at Memphis)

21 ALABAMA 28 VANDERBILT

Nov. 4 at Memphis

11 at LSU

25 at Mississippi State

28 UNLV

NEVADA

Nov. 4 at Utah State

11 at Pacific

18 SAN JOSE STATE

NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

Sept. 2 at Fresno State

9 NICHOLLS STATE 16 at Colorado

23 at Missouri

30 at Mississippi State

Oct 7 TROY STATE

14 at Nevada

21 NORTHWESTERN STATE

28 CENTRAL FLORIDA

Nov. 4 at Auburn

11 at Louisville

MIAMI Sept. 2 at UCLA

9 FLORIDA A&M

18 at East Carolina

23 at Virginia Tech Oct. 7 at Florida State

> 14 RUTGERS 21 at Pittsburgh

28 TEMPLE

Nov. 4 BAYLOR

11 at Boston College 18 WEST VIRGINIA

25 SYRACUSE

MISSISSIPPI STATE

Sept. 2 MEMPHIS

9 LSU

16 at Baylor

23 at Tennessee

30 NORTHEAST LOUISIANA Oct. 5 at Auburn

14 SOUTH CAROLINA 28 KENTUCKY

Nov. 4 ARKANSAS (at Little Rock)

11 at Alabama 25 MISSISSIPPI

NEW MEXICO Sept. 2 NORTHERN ARIZONA

16 UTAH

23 NEW MEXICO STATE

30 AIR FORCE Oct. 7 at Fresno State

14 HAWAII

21 at Colorado State

28 TEXAS TECH Nov. 4 at San Diego State

11 BYLL

18 at UTEP

NORTHERN ILLINOIS Sept. 2 at Southern Mississippi

> 9 LOUISVILLE 16 at San Jose State

23 SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA 30 at Kansas State

Oct. 7 UNLV

14 at Utah State

28 CINCINNATI

Nov. 4 at Florida 11 ARKANSAS STATE

18 at Louisiana Tech

#### MIAMI (OHIO)

Aug. 31 BALL STATE Sept. 9 at Kent

> 16 at Northwestern 23 CINCINNATI

30 at Michigan

Oct. 7 at Bowling Green 14 TOLEDO

28 at Central Michigan Nov. 4 EASTERN MICHIGAN

11 at Ohio

18 AKRON

#### MISSOURI

Sept. 2 NORTH TEXAS

9 BOWLING GREEN 16 at Texas Tech

23 NORTHEAST LOUISIANA Oct. 7 at Kansas State

> 14 at Nebraska 21 OKLAHOMA STATE

28 OKLAHOMA Nov. 4 at Kansas

> 11 at Colorado 18 IOWA STATE

NEW MEXICO STATE

Sept. 2 UTEP 9 NEVADA

> 16 at Georgia 23 at New Mexico

Oct. 7 LOUISIANA TECH

14 at Southwestern Louisiana 21 UTAH STATE

30 at lowa

Nov. 4 at Pacific

11 SAN JOSE STATE

18 at UNLV

#### NORTHWESTERN

Sept. 2 at Notre Dame

16 MIAMI (OHIO) 23 AIR FORCE

30 INDIANA

Oct. 7 at Michigan 14 at Minnesota

> 21 WISCONSIN 28 at Illinois

Nov. 4 PENN STATE 11 IOWA

18 at Purdue

#### NOTRE DAME OREGON STATE RUTGERS SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI Sept. 2 NORTHWESTERN Sept. 2 IDAHO Sept. 9 at Duke Sept. 2 NORTHERN ILLINOIS 9 at Pacific 9 at Purdue 16 NAVY 9 at Alabama 16 VANDERBILT 16 at North Texas 23 PENN ST. (at E. Rutherford, N.J.) 16 at Utah State 23 TEXAS 23 at Arizona State 30 SYRACUSE 23 at Indiana 30 at Ohio State 30 WASHINGTON Oct. 14 at Miami 30 TULANE 21 VIRGINIA TECH Oct. 7 at Washington State Oct. 7 at Washington Oct. 7 LOUISVILLE 14 ARMY (at East Rutherford, N.J.) 21 CALIFORNIA 28 PITTSBURGH 14 at Cincinnati 21 USC 28 at Stanford Nov. 4 at West Virginia 28 EAST CAROLINA 28 BOSTON COLLEGE Nov. 4 ARIZONA 11 at Tulane Nov. 4 at Tennessee 11 USC Nov. 4 NAVY 18 at Temple 11 at Memphis 18 at Air Force 18 at Oregon 24 BOSTON COLLEGE 18 at Southwestern Louisiana OHIO PACIFIC SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA Aug. 31 at Iowa State Sept. 2 at Arizona Sept. 2 at Nevada Sept. 9 ILLINOIS STATE 9 OREGON STATE 9 ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM 16 KENT 16 at Fresno State 16 at Memphis 23 at Eastern Michigan 23 at Nebraska 23 at Northern Illinois 30 at North Carolina Oct. 7 at Oregon Oct. 7 at Arkansas State Oct. 14 WESTERN MICHIGAN 14 LOUISIANA TECH 14 NEW MEXICO STATE 21 at Akron 21 at Southwestern Louisiana 21 PACIFIC 28 BALL STATE 28 at San Jose State S-U 28 at Tulane Nov. 4 NEW MEXICO STATE Nov. 4 at Bowling Green Nov. 4 LOUISIANA TECH 11 MIAMI (OHIO) 11 NEVADA 11 at Arkansas 18 at Toledo 18 at Utah State 18 SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI OHIO STATE SAN DIEGO STATE PENN STATE STANFORD Aug. 27 Boston Coll. (at E. Rutherford, N.J.) Sept. 9 TEXAS TECH Sept. 2 CALIFORNIA Sept. 2 at San Jose State Sept.16 WASHINGTON 16 TEMPLE 9 at Oklahoma 9 at Utah 23 at Pittsburgh 23 RUTGERS (at E. Rutherford, N.J.) 16 at BYU 16 WISCONSIN 30 NOTRE DAME 30 WISCONSIN 28 NEVADA 23 at Oregon 7 at Penn State Oct. 7 OHIO STATE Oct. 7 at Utah Oct. 7 at Arizona State Oct. 14 at Wisconsin 14 at Purdue 14 FRESNO STATE 14 WASHINGTON 21 PURDUE 21 at lowa 21 SAN JOSE STATE 21 UCLA 28 IOWA 28 INDIANA 28 at UTEP 28 OREGON STATE Nov. 4 at Minnesota Nov. 4 at Northwestern Nov. 4 NEW MEXICO Nov. 4 at USC 11 ILLINOIS 18 MICHIGAN 11 WYOMING 11 at Washington State 18 INDIANA 25 at Michigan State 18 at Hawaii 18 CALIFORNIA 25 at Michigan 25 COLORADO STATE **OKLAHOMA** PITTSBURGH SAN JOSE STATE SYRACUSE Sept. 9 SAN DIEGO STATE Sept. 2 WASHINGTON STATE Sept. 2 STANFORD Sept. 2 at North Carolina 16 SMU 9 EASTERN MICHIGAN 9 at USC 9 EAST CAROLINA 23 NORTH TEXAS 16 at Texas 16 NORTHERN ILLINOIS 23 MINNESOTA 30 COLORADO 23 OHIO STATE 23 at California 30 at Rutgers Oct. 7 at Iowa State 30 VIRGINIA TECH 30 UTAH STATE Oct. 7 TEMPLE 14 TEXAS (at Dallas) Oct. 7 at Boston College Oct. 14 UNLV 14 EASTERN MICHIGAN 21 KANSAS 14 at Temple 21 at San Diego State 21 WEST VIRGINIA 28 at Missouri 21 MIAMI 28 PACIFIC Nov. 4 at Virginia Tech Nov. 4 at Kansas State 28 at Rutgers Nov. 4 at Arkansas State 11 at Pittsburgh 11 OKLAHOMA STATE 11 at New Mexico State Nov. 11 SYRACUSE 18 BOSTON COLLEGE 24 at Nebraska 24 at West Virginia 18 at Nevada 25 at Miami OKLAHOMA STATE SOUTH CAROLINA PURDUE TCU Aug. 31 NEBRASKA Sept. 2 at West Virginia Sept. 2 at Georgia Sept. 9 IOWA STATE Sept. 9 at Tulsa 9 NOTRE DAME 9 at Arkansas 14 at Kansas 16 SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE 23 MICHIGAN STATE 16 LOUISIANA TECH 23 at Vanderbilt 23 at Wyoming 30 BALL STATE 23 KENTUCKY Oct. 7 HOUSTON 30 at Tennessee Oct. 7 at Minnesota 30 LSU 14 at Rice Oct. 14 KANSAS STATE 14 PENN STATE Oct. 7 KENT 21 TULANE 21 at Missouri 21 at Ohio State 14 at Mississippi State 28 at Baylor 28 at lowa State Nov. 4 WISCONSIN 21 VANDERBILT Nov. 4 SMU Nov. 4 COLORADO 11 at Michigan 28 at Tennessee 11 at Texas Tech 11 at Oklahoma 18 NORTHWESTERN Nov. 11 FLORIDA 18 at Texas 18 KANSAS 24 at Indiana 18 CLEMSON 25 TEXAS A&M Dec. 2 at Hawaii OREGON RICE SMIL TEMPLE

Sept. 2 at Utah

9 ILLINOIS

16 at UCLA

23 STANFORD

Oct. 7 PACIFIC

14 at California

21 WASHINGTON STATE 28 ARIZONA STATE

Nov. 4 at Washington

11 at Arizona

18 OREGON STATE

Sept. 2 UNLV

16 TULANE

23 at LSU

30 at Army

28 at SMU

Nov. 9 TEXAS A&M

18 at Baylor

Dec. 2 HOUSTON

21 at Texas Tech

Oct. 7 at Texas

14 TCU

Sept. 2 ARKANSAS 9 NAVY

16 at Oklahoma

23 at Wisconsin

30 TEXAS

Oct. 14 at Texas A&M

21 at Houston

28 RICE

Nov. 4 at TCU 11 BAYLOR

18 TEXAS TECH

Sept. 2 at Kansas State

9 at West Virginia

16 at Penn State

30 BOWLING GREEN

Oct. 7 at Syracuse

14 PITTSBURGH

21 at East Carolina

28 at Miami

Nov. 4 BOSTON COLLEGE

11 VIRGINIA TECH

18 RUTGERS

#### TENNESSEE

Sept. 2 EAST CAROLINA

9 GEORGIA

16 at Florida

23 MISSISSIPPI STATE 30 OKLAHOMA STATE

Oct. 7 at Arkansas

14 at Alabama

28 SOUTH CAROLINA

Nov. 4 SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

18 at Kentucky

25 VANDERBILT

#### TULSA

Sept. 2 BAYLOR

9 OKLAHOMA STATE

16 at Texas A&M

23 FAST TENNESSEE STATE

30 LA. TECH (at Shreveport, La.)

Oct. 7 WYOMING

14 at UTEP

28 at Memphis

Nov. 4 at BYU

11 at East Carolina

18 CINCINNATI

#### LITER

Sept. 2 at New Mexico State

9 at Arizona State

16 VALDOSTA STATE

23 at Hawaii 30 UTAH

Oct. 7 at Air Force

14 THISA

28 SAN DIEGO STATE

Nov. 4 at Colorado State

11 at Fresno State

18 NEW MEXICO 25 WYOMING

#### WASHINGTON

Sept. 2 ARIZONA STATE

16 at Ohio State

23 ARMY

30 at Oregon State

Oct. 7 NOTRE DAME

14 at Stanford

21 at Arizona

28 USC

Nov. 4 OREGON

11 at UCLA

18 WASHINGTON STATE

#### TEXAS

Sept. 2 at Hawaii

16 PITTSBURGH

23 at Notre Dame

30 at SMU

Oct. 7 RICE

14 OKLAHOMA (at Dallas)

21 VIRGINIA

Nov. 4 TEXAS TECH

11 at Houston

18 TCU

23 BAYLOR

Dec. 2 at Texas A&M

#### UCLA

Sept. 2 MIAMI

9 at BYU

16 OREGON

23 at Washington State

30 FRESNO STATE

Oct. 14 ARIZONA

21 at Stanford

28 CALIFORNIA

Nov. 4 at Arizona State 11 WASHINGTON

18 at USC



#### WASHINGTON STATE Sept. 2 at Pittsburgh

9 MONTANA

23 UCLA

30 at Nebraska

Oct. 7 OREGON STATE

14 at USC

21 at Oregon

28 ARIZONA

Nov. 4 at California

11 STANFORD

18 at Washington

#### TEXAS A&M

Sept. 2 LSU

16 TULSA

23 at Colorado

Oct. 7 at Texas Tech 14 SMU

21 at Baylor

28 HOUSTON

Nov 9 at Rice

18 MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE

25 at TCU

Dec. 2 TEXAS

#### UNLV

Sept. 2 at Rice

9 ARKANSAS STATE

16 at Eastern Michigan

23 at lowa State

30 HAWAII

Oct. 7 at Northern Illinois

14 at San Jose State

28 at Nevada

Nov. 4 NORTH TEXAS

11 UTAH STATE 18 NEW MEXICO STATE

16 at Notre Dame

23 TCU

Oct. 14 GEORGIA

28 at Mississippi

Nov. 4 KENTUCKY

18 at Florida 25 at Tennessee

#### WEST VIRGINIA

Sept. 2 PURDUE

28 VIRGINIA TECH

Nov. 4 RUTGERS

18 at Miami

24 PITTSBURGH

**TEXAS TECH** 

Sept. 9 at Penn State 16 MISSOURI

30 at Baylor Oct. 7 TEXAS A&M

14 ARKANSAS STATE

21 RICE

TOLEDO

28 at New Mexico

Nov. 4 at Texas 11 TCU

18 at SMU 25 at Houston

23 at Nevada

Oct. 7 BALL STATE

30 at Cincinnati

14 at Miami (Ohio)

Nov. 4 at Central Michigan

21 at Bowling Green

28 EASTERN MICHIGAN

Sept. 9 EAST TENNESSEE STATE

16 at Western Michigan

USC

Sept. 9 SAN JOSE STATE 16 HOUSTON

23 at Arizona

30 ARIZONA STATE

Oct. 7 at California

14 WASHINGTON STATE

21 at Notre Dame 28 at Washington

Nov. 4 STANFORD

11 at Oregon State 18 UCLA

Sept. 2 WILLIAM&MARY

16 GEORGIA TECH

23 at Clemson 30 WAKE FOREST

14 DUKE

Nov. 2 FLORIDA STATE 18 VIRGINIA TECH

Sept. 7 BOSTON COLLEGE 16 CINCINNATI

23 MIAMI

30 at Pittsburgh

14 AKRON 21 at Rutgers

Nov. 4 SYRACUSE

11 at Temple

9 TEMPLE

16 at Maryland 23 KENT

30 at East Carolina

Oct. 14 at Boston College

21 at Syracuse

#### WESTERN MICHIGAN

Aug. 31 WEBER STATE

Sept. 9 at Indiana 16 TOLEDO

23 at Ball State

30 at Kent Oct. 7 AKRON

14 at Ohio

21 at Auburn

28 BOWLING GREEN

Nov. 11 at Eastern Michigan 18 CENTRAL MICHIGAN

WISCONSIN

Sept. 2 COLORADO

16 at Stanford 23 SMU

30 at Penn State

Oct. 14 OHIO STATE 21 at Northwestern

28 MICHIGAN STATE Nov. 4 at Purdue

11 at Minnesota

18 IOWA

25 ILLINOIS

Sept. 9 at Air Force 16 HAWAII

23 OKLAHOMA STATE Oct. 7 at Tulsa

WYOMING

14 LOUISVILLE

21 at BYU

28 COLORADO STATE Nov. 4 UTAH

> 11 at San Diego State 18 FRESNO STATE

25 at UTEP

UTAH

Sept. 2 OREGON 9 STANFORD

16 at New Mexico 23 FRESNO STATE 30 at UTEP Oct. 7 SAN DIEGO STATE

14 COLORADO STATE 21 AIR FORCE

28 UTAH STATE Nov. 4 at Wyoming

18 at BYU

UTAH STATE Sept. 2 at Arkansas State

> 9 BOISE STATE 16 SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI 30 at San Jose State

Oct. 7 COLORADO STATE 14 NORTHERN ILLINOIS 21 at New Mexico State

28 at Utah Nov. 4 NEVADA

> 11 at UNLV 18 PACIFIC

VANDERBILT Sept. 2 ALABAMA

30 ARKANSAS

21 at South Carolina

11 LOUISIANA TECH

VIRGINIA

Aug. 26 at Michigan

9 at North Carolina State

Oct. 7 at North Carolina

21 at Texas

11 at Maryland

VIRGINIA TECH

Oct. 7 at Navy

28 at West Virginia

#### 18 at Virginia

Aug. 31 APPALACHIAN STATE Sept. 9 at Tulane

23 at Navy

Oct. 7 MARYLAND 14 at Florida State

28 at Duke Nov. 4 GEORGIA TECH

WAKE FOREST

16 CLEMSON 30 at Virginia

21 at North Carolina

18 NORTH CAROLINA STATE

#### TULANE

Sept. 2 MARYLAND

11 AKRON

**18 OHIO** 

16 at Rice 30 at Southern Mississippi

14 MEMPHIS

Nov. 4 at Louisville

21 at TCU

11 RUTGERS

18 at Navy

Oct. 7 at Mississippi

9 WAKE FOREST

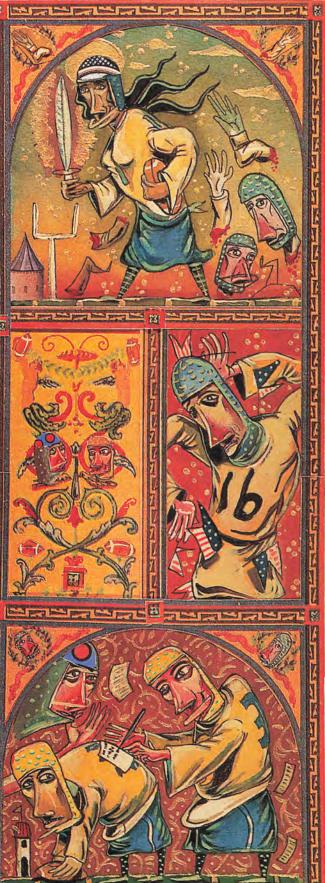
28 SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA

## Returning Statistical Leaders

1994 REGULAR-SEASON STATS
NATIONAL RANKING IN PARENTHESES

RUSHI	N G				SCORI	N G	175	33	
	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Yds. per game	TDs	XP	FG	Pts.	Pts. per gam
Lawrence Phillips, Nebraska (3)	286	1,722	6.0	143.50	Remy Hamilton, MICHIGAN (8) 0	23	24	95	8.64
Andre Davis, TCU (5)	260	1,494	5.7	135.82	Brett Conway, PENN STATE (10) 0	62	10	92	8.36
Alex Smith, Indiana (6)	265	1,475	5.6	134.09	Kanon Parkman, GEORGIA (11) 0	40	17	91	8.27
Chris Darkins, MINNESOTA (7)	277	1,443	5.2	131.18	Phil Dawson, Texas (13) 0	38	14	80	8.00
Billy West, PITTSBURGH (9)	252	1,358	5.4	123.45	Lawrence Phillips, Nebraska (13) 16	0	0	96	8.00
Toraino Singleton, UTEP (14)	292	1,277	4.4	116.09	Mike Alstott, PURDUE (18) 14	2	0	86	7.82
Stephen Davis, AUBURN (15)	221	1,263	5.7	114.82	Wasean Tait, TOLEDO (20) 13	0	0	78	7.80
Eddie George, Ohio State (16)	261	1,353	5.2	112.75	Rafael Garcia, VIRGINIA (22) 0	34	17	85	7.73
Sharmon Shah, UCLA (20)	210	1,227	5.8	111.55	Ken Minor, NEVADA (23) 14	0	0	84	7.64
Mike Alstott, Purdue (24)	202	1,188	5.9	108.00	Mike Chalberg, MINNESOTA (25) 0	25	17	76	7.60
PASSING EFF	1 C	IEN	CY		PUNTI	N G			
	Comp.	Yds.	TDs	Rating	(minimum 3.6 punts per game)			Punts	Avg.
Danny Wuerffel, FLORIDA (4) 212	132	1,754	18	151.3	Brad Maynard, BALL STATE (3)			59	45.49
Max Knake, TCU (7) 316	184	2,624	24	148.6	John Stonehouse, USC (8)			61	44.15
Ryan Henry, Bowling Green (10) 293	174	2,368	25	147.9	Greg Ivy, OKLAHOMA STATE (9)				44.03
Mike Groh, VIRGINIA (13) 216	138	1,711	13	143.8	Sean Reali, SYRACUSE (11)				43.37
Scott Milanovich, MARYLAND (14) 333	229	2,394	20	143.6	Paul Burton, Northwestern (13)				43.00
Tony Banks, Michigan State (16) 238	145	2,040	11	143.1	Darin Erstad, NEBRASKA (14)				42.60
Mike Maxwell, Nevada (17) 447	271	3,537	29	141.8	Matt Levine, East Carolina (15)				42.59
Ron Powlus, Notre Dame (20) 222	119	1,729	19	139.2					
Richie Donati, Fresno State (24) 263					Marc Harris, IOWA STATE (17)				42.40
Bobby Hoying, Ohio State (25) 274	152 159	2,254 2,155	11 17	136.7 135.1	Mark Delozier, Tulsa (19) John Krueger, Duke (21)				42.05
RECEPTIONS	PEF	R G A	ME		INTERCEP				
	G	Rec.	Yds.	Rec. per game	G	Int.	Yds.	TDs	Int. per game
Alex Van Dyke, NEVADA (1)	11	98	1,246	8.91	Aaron Beasley, W. VIRGINIA (1) 12	10	133	2	.83
Geroy Simon, MARYLAND (4)	11	77	891	7.00	Ronde Barber, VIRGINIA (2) 11	8	56	0	.73
Ves Caswell, Tulsa (5)	11	74	893	6.73	Demetrice Martin, MICH. St. (4) 11	7	41	0	.64
Kevin Jordan, UCLA (6)	11	73	1,228		Joe Crocker, Virginia (5)	6	54	1	.55
Marcus Harris, Wyoming (10)	12	71	1,431						
			7 1000		Walt Harris, MISSISSIPPI STATE (5) 11	6	41	1	.55
Keyshawn Johnson, USC (12)	10	58	1,140		Ray Jackson, Colorado State (5) 11	6	71	0	.55
Dean Jackson, Louisiana Tech (14)	11	62	790	5.64	Denorse Mosley, PITTSBURGH (5) 11	6	27	0	.55
heanyi Uwaezuoke, California (15)	10	56	716	5.60	Willie Smith, LOUISIANA TECH (15) 10	5	180	1	.50
Brice Hunter, GEORGIA (17)	11	59	799	5.36	Derrick Hervey, So. Miss. (18) 11	5	121	1	.45
Marco Battaglia, Rutgers (18)	11	58	779	5.27	Reggie Tongue, OREGON ST. (18) 11	5	150	3	.45
RECEIVING YARD	S	PER	G A	ME	PUNT RET	UR	NS		
	G	Rec.		Yds. per game	(minimum 1.2 returns per game)	PR	Yds.	TDs	Avg.
Marcus Harris, Wyoming (1)	12	71		119.25	Steve Clay, Eastern Michigan (1)	14	278	1	19.86
Keyshawn Johnson, USC (2)	10	58		114.00	Nilo Silvan, Tennessee (2)	15	272	0	18.13
Alex Van Dyke, NEVADA (3)	11	98	1,246	113.27	Ray Peterson, SAN DIEGO STATE (3)	12	190	2	15.83
(evin Jordan, UCLA (4)	11	73	1,228	111.64	Kevin Alexander, UTAH STATE (4)	14	199	1	14.21
Stepfret Williams, Northeast Louisiana (6	) 11	57	1,106	100.55	Eddie Kennison, LSU (5)	36	439	1	12.19
Amani Toomer, MICHIGAN (8)	11	49	1,033	93.91	Greg Myers, Colorado State (8)	25	294	0	11.76
Bobby Engram, PENN STATE (9)	11	52		93.55	Ryan Roskelly, Memphis (9)	40	468	1	11.70
ucious Davis, New Mexico State (10)	11	54	985	89.55	Dane Johnson, Texas Tech (10)	27	313	1	11.59
Freddie Scott, PENN STATE (11)	11	47	973	88.45	Octavus Barnes, North Carolina (12)		151	0	10.79
Richard Dice, ARIZONA (12)	11	56	969	88.09	Bobby Engram, Penn State (13)	14	147	0	10.79
TOTAL OF	FEN	SE			KICKOFF RE	TU	RNS		
		Plays	Yds.	Yds. per game	(minimum 1.2 returns per game)	KOR	Yds.	TDs	Avg.
Mike Maxwell, Nevada (1)		477	3,498	318.00	Marcus Wall, North Carolina (2)	27	743	1	27.52
Marcus Crandell, EAST CAROLINA (8)		472	2,783	253.00	Derrick Mason, MICHIGAN STATE (4)	36	966	1	26.83
		407	2,654	241.27	Ashaundai Smith, Kansas (6)	17	448	1	26.35
		494		237.10	Brian Davis, Memphis (8)	16	416	0	26.00
Danny Kanell, FLORIDA STATE (12)				236.40	Seth Smith, MICHIGAN (8)	18		1	
Panny Kanell, FLORIDA STATE (12) Ramon Flanigan, SMU (13)		381	4.300		John Jiman, Michigan (0)	10	468	1	26.00
Panny Kanell, Florida State (12) Ramon Flanigan, SMU (13) ay McDonagh, Western Michigan (14)		381 470			Bruan Cill Vincinia Trou (11)	10	402	0	
Panny Kanell, Florida State (12) Ramon Flanigan, SMU (13) ay McDonagh, Western Michigan (14) Henry Burris, Temple (15)		470	2,567	233.36	Bryan Still, VIRGINIA TECH (11)	19	493	0	25.95
Panny Kanell, Florida State (12) Ramon Flanigan, SMU (13) ay McDonagh, Western Michigan (14) Henry Burris, Temple (15) Max Knake, TCU (17)		470 343	2,567 2,540	233.36 230.91	Hank Ray, Ohio (14)	22	553	0	25.95 25.14
Canny Kanell, Florida State (12) Ramon Flanigan, SMU (13) ay McDonagh, Western Michigan (14) Henry Burris, Temple (15) Max Knake, TCU (17) Ryan Huzjak, Toledo (18)		470 343 413	2,567 2,540 2,465	233.36 230.91 224.09	Hank Ray, Ohio (14) Alvin Whitted, N.C. STATE (15)	22 18	553 452	0 1	25.95 25.14 25.11
Canny Kanell, FLORIDA STATE (12) Ramon Flanigan, SMU (13) lay McDonagh, Western Michigan (14) Henry Burris, Temple (15) Max Knake, TCU (17) Ryan Huzjak, Tolebo (18) Scott Milanovich, Maryland (24) Ryan Henry, Bowling Green (26)		470 343	2,567 2,540 2,465 2,332	233.36 230.91	Hank Ray, Ohio (14)	22	553	0	25.95 25.14

## TRAINST M STATES HERETELEVISION STRUCKS THANKS TO THE DISCOVERY OF AN ANCIENT MANUSCRIPT, WE CAN NOW GUMPSE THE FUTURE OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL BY STEVE RUSHIN



I lostradamus you know about. The French seer, sage and sooth-sayer wrote a collection of prophecies in 1555, many of which have come to pass. But Nostradamus had a heretofore unheralded older brother—the less ambitious Notredamus, who was content in 1520 to make his mystical "Pigskin Prophecies." ♣ Or so goes the title of an ancient manuscript, recently recovered by medieval scholars, in which Notredamus penned a series of remarkably prescient predictions for college football in the year 2020. You say football didn't even exist in the 16th century? You're beginning to see just how prescient the man was. ♣ So then, what will college football be like 500 years after Notredamus but a mere 25 years from today? The great one gives you a glimpse with his 2020 vision.



N THE YEAR 2020, 93-year-old Joe Paterno announces that he will coach Penn State for only five more years. His pants are declared a National Historic Site.

⚠ Under new gender-equity guidelines, each college football team must dress 10 female players, at least one of whom is required to be on the field at all times. The Citadel drops football. Ki-Janie Carter of Penn State becomes the first woman to win the Heisman Trophy. It is immediately renamed the Heisperson Trophy. Voting for that award is now done by a New York public relations firm, in September, after each school has released the press kit on its candidate.

Erstwhile ESPN prognosticator Beano Cook turns 88. He retreats to his fortified compound in the New Mexico desert, where he issues a doomsday prediction foretelling an imminent death struggle between the forces of Good and the forces of Evil for control of the world. He takes Evil minus 6½. Pilgrims flock to see the great man in his Beanosphere.

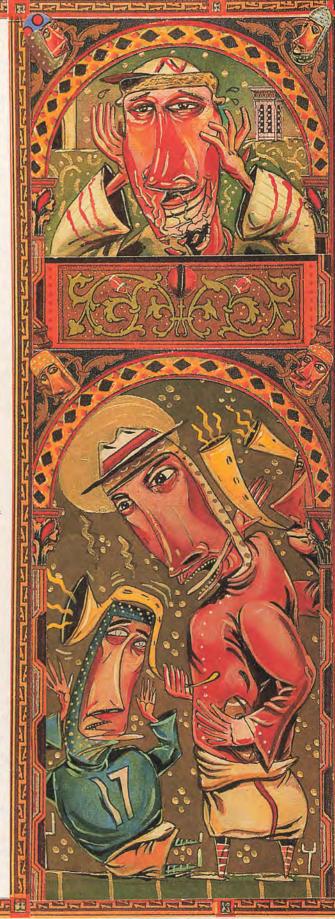
It is illegal to hit the quarterback, who now wears eight Velcro flags on his uniform. What were once called sacks are now called flags. The phrase flag on the play may refer to a penalty flag, or to a quarterback flag, or even to fan interest, which flags considerably with this new safety measure.

Half a century after the cordless phone is invented, Motorola conceives the cordless headset. A Nevada–Las Vegas defensive coordinator tries to pirate his opponents' frequencies, but all he picks up are lewd con-

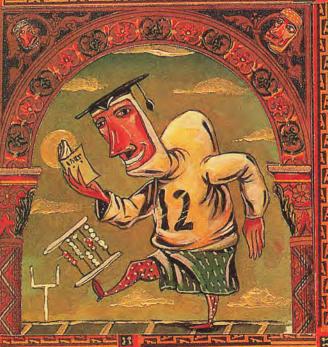
The obscure sage has predicted (clockwise from far left) the preservation of Paterno's pants, the reign of Ki-Janie, an unflagging devotion to QB safety, and a more literary squad in South Bend.

versations—apparently coming from the car phone of Britain's King Charles. Sadly, 200 cord-carrying freshman managers are left jobless when college football goes cordless.

- Notre Dame drops the two-fisted leprechaun as its mascot. The school finally bows to pressure from a group called Gaels Urgently Inventing New Nicknames to Extinguish Scurrilous Stereotypes (GUINNESS). Notre Dame's "more positive, less belligerent" new logo is a bust of Irish poet W.B. Yeats. The team's new nickname: the Writin' Irish. The change is lauded by the President of the United States, Richard (Digger) Phelps.
- After a 25-year lapse, the University of Miami resubscribes to Sports Illustrated.
- Cash-poor corporations can no longer afford to sponsor bowl games, so entire agricultural industries pool their resources to put their product names on the games. Result: The bowls get absurd new tags like the Cotton Bowl and the Sugar Bowl as football tramples the traditions of a generation that grew up with such postseason classics as the Poulan/Weedeater Bowl. As Yeats will have written, "I heard the old, old men say/All that's beautiful drifts away."
- Economic hardships weed Division I down to 47 programs, 46 of which play in a single superconference called the Big Ten. Notre Dame remains independent, and all of the Writin' Irish practices are televised on ESPN4 (which likes to call itself the Quad).
- Most schools drop their bands. Except Stanford, which drops its football team. The band beats Cal 14–3.
- Limited to 60 scholarships, many programs field two-way stars. William (the Refrigerated Boxcar) Berry plays nosetackle and fullback for Ohio State. He weighs 418 pounds, runs a 4.3 40 and emphatically dots the *i* in "script Ohio" at halftime—though the Buckeye band, ravaged by budget cuts, now simply spells "Hi."
- In Sun City, Ariz., Tom Osborne reportedly smiles. Tragically, his face cracks and falls away like ceiling plaster.
- The Fair-Catch Club of Trenchfoot, Tenn., honors Auburn's Deke Dingle as the nation's best backup quarterback with its Clipboard Award. CBS carries the announcement live over both of its affiliates.
- The value of a successful field goal is now equal to the grade point average of its kicker.
- For the first time, a major program is run by a computer with artificial intelligence. It replaces Jackie Sherrill at Mississippi State.
- ☼ Global warming turns North Dakota into the new recruiting hotbed.
  The Peace Garden State produces more blue-chippers than Florida, Texas and California combined.
- High school seniors attend a national scouting combine (held annually in the shadow of North Dakota's White Butte) at which they are poked, prodded, weighed, inspected and graded as if they were ... as if they were college seniors. Mel Kiper Jr. Jr. covers the combine for ESPN5 (a.k.a. the Quint).



The second secon



The day will come, wrote Notredamus, when (clockwise from lower left) a band wins a game, Osborne cracks a smile, artificial intelligence takes over and a team wins the title by a grade point.

- ♣ A player is slightly injured at Pitt when the air bag in his pants fails to inflate on a tackle. Consumer advocate Rolf Nadir demands a recall of all gridiron equipment.
- Coaches are forbidden to contact recruits at home except by video-conferencing. (A school's E-mailings remain unlimited.) All such conferences are videotaped and screened by the NCAA. Telegenic coaches, therefore, consistently enjoy the greatest recruiting success and retain the same image consultants employed by presidential candidates. Asked if he expects to land a prized prospect he has just video-schmoozed, Texas coach Buford Purdy replies, "I can't say anything till I've watched the films."
- H All Division I-A players are given a \$2,000-a-month in-season allowance and a \$105 per diem on the road, and are restricted to \$20,000 in annual earnings under the "endorsement cap." The NCAA bans advertising from players' faces, but the Supreme Court declares the rule unconstitutional in a landmark case involving a USC tailback who wears dyed-orange sideburns in the shape of Nike swooshes. The decision, predictably, gets mixed reviews. It is praised by the ACLU, denounced by UCLA.
- Prop 48(z) relaxes academic standards, requiring only a student's attendance at the SAT—or, failing that, a note from a doctor.
- ⚠ In a desperate effort to distinguish its game from professional football, the NCAA abolishes the two-point conversion, something college basketball did in 2011.
- Written as an open letter to his famous father, *Skip to My Lou* reveals that the old man's folksy, homespun humor was folksy but not homespun: All of his stories came from *The Big Book of Humorous After-Dinner Anecdotes* (Knopf, 1928).
- Artificial turf is banned, forcing Syracuse and Minnesota to grow grass indoors. "College kids have been doing that for years," quips University of Miami president Luther Campbell.
- After a quarter century of frustration, Terry Bowden leads Central Florida to the national finals by upsetting Notre Dame and Nebraska in the playoffs. In the final minute of the championship game, with Central Florida leading North Dakota 24–20, the Dakota defenders "flag" the Central quarterback in the end zone for a safety: 24–22. Dakota receives the ensuing free kick, and with 14 seconds remaining, kicker Odd Thorkelsen boots a 41-yard field goal. His GPA is 2.03. The Fighting Sioux are national champions by .03 of a point.
- ♣ In their annual postseason poll, college football coaches name the AP the nation's No. 1 wire service.

## The Common



RICK NEUHEISEL IS A 34-YEAR-OLD FORMER UCLA

WALK-ON WITH A LAW DEGREE AND A GUITAR. SO WHAT

ON EARTH IS HE DOING COACHING THE BUFFALOES?

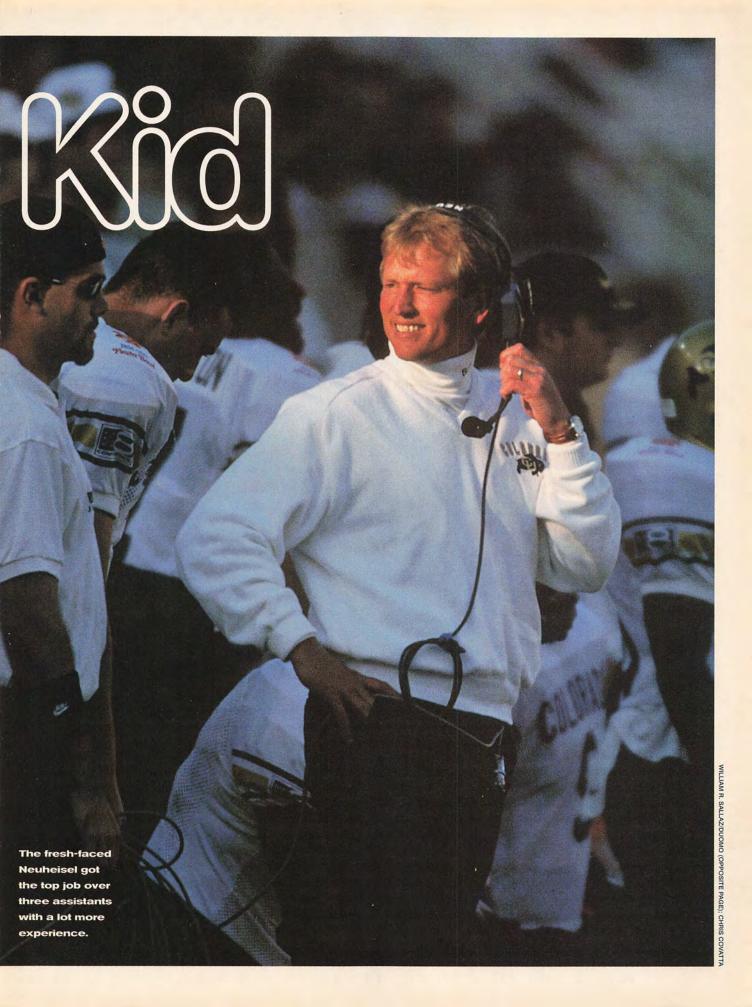
#### BY TIM LAYDEN

football cocked behind his right ear and his eyes trained downfield, Rick Neuheisel surveyed the landscape before him. Coolly, he motioned with his left arm for his primary receiver to break off a route and turn upfield. At the last possible instant, Neuheisel flicked a tight spiral ... which his three-year-old son, Jerry, bobbled and dropped as he disappeared from view and into the training-table food line at the University of Colorado.

"Gotta catch that ball," Neuheisel says, evenly and mechanically. Jerry reemerges, shrugs and tears off across the room with the undersized ball tucked under his right arm and a Dallas Cowboy helmet floating freely on his tiny towhead. There is damage to be done, there are kneecaps to be rammed. Smiling deviously, his father returns to a conversation in mid-thought. Something about Florida coach Steve Spurrier and learning to be head coach while calling all the plays. Or maybe it was about spring weather in Colorado. Anyway, no pause.

Rare is the person who can seem to be at play when he is at work (Mister Rogers comes to mind and maybe Tom Hanks, but it's a short list). Football coaches generally operate on the opposite principle: games as global war. Neuheisel is the rookie coach at Colorado, yet his approach will more resemble Pooh Bear's than Bear Bryant's. "I'm taking the attitude that this needs to be fun," Neuheisel says. "Life is too short not to have fun."

This is his attitude: concentration without consumption. It sounds like a sneaker commercial, but get used to it. It is part personality and part necessity, because Neuheisel, 34, is not only the second-youngest head coach in Division I-A (the youngest, by all of four days, is Ron Cooper of Louisville) but also shoulders the weight of Colorado's newly won place among college football's elite, earned in the latter half of coach Bill McCartney's 13-year tenure in Boulder. The Buffaloes went 10–1 in the 1994 season (they would later crush Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl and finish ranked No. 3), and McCartney seemed to have the program on the sort of cruise-control course that only a few, privileged schools can drive. Then, immediately after Colorado's regular-season-ending win over Iowa State, McCartney quit, saying he wanted to spend more time with his family.



It took just nine days for a search committee chaired by athletic director Bill Marolt to select Neuheisel, the quarterbacks coach, over three other Colorado assistants: offensive coordinator Elliot Uzelac, defensive coordinator Mike Hankwitz and assistant head coach Bob Simmons. The choice was tinged with surprise and controversy. Neuheisel was the least experienced of the four. Moreover, Simmons is black, which prompted the Rainbow Coalition to protest the hiring. (Simmons was later hired as head coach at Oklahoma State.)

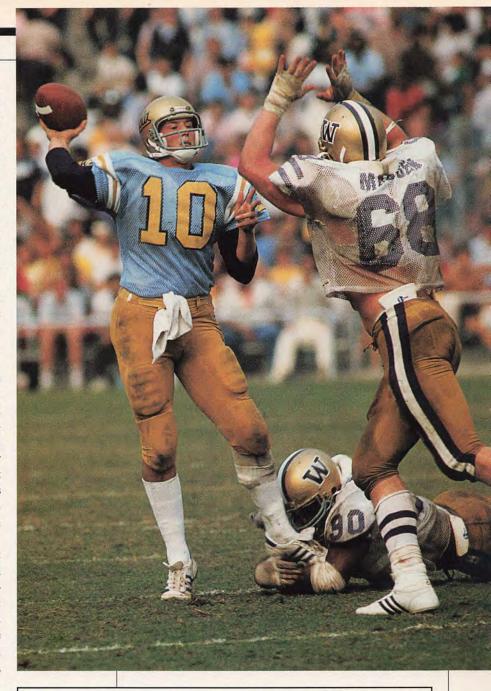
Months after the hiring, though, Marolt remained blithely secure in his decision. His reasoning was based on one factor: vision. "I didn't feel, and I still don't feel, that you can maintain programs," says Marolt. "You heard people saying back then that we just need somebody to maintain our level of excellence. But you can't ever stand still. You're always going forward or backward. When you're looking down the road 10 years, you really need to change your thinking. If we hire this coach or that coach, are we seeking short-term gains instead of looking at the long haul? We needed somebody who could look down the road and make it better."

Translation: There was a sense that Simmons, Uzelac and Hankwitz were all qualified. But in Neuheisel, it was possible—not certain, but possible—that Colorado could seize something special. More practically, if Colorado didn't hire Neuheisel, wouldn't somebody? Michigan State had inquired. Others would follow, and Neuheisel probably wouldn't wait. "That was a real possibility," says Marolt.

Neuheisel recalls vividly the day he was hired, and he retells the story with great fer-

vor. This is another of his traits: framing a tale with energy, detail and flourish, as if sitting around a campfire or leaning on the bar in some musty pub. As he talks, it isn't hard to imagine how effective he could be in a pregame speech or a recruiting visit.

The date was Nov. 28. Neuheisel was recruiting in northern California. He picks up the story: "I'm at Elk Grove High School in Elk Grove, California, home of the Thundering Herd. The coach is Coach Lombardi, of all things. I was told to call Bill Marolt's office at a certain time, and that's all I'm thinking about. But the coach, he wants to talk some ball, and I can't just stiff him. Eventually I call Bill and I have to leave a message. I leave Coach Lombardi's number. A few minutes later his phone



As Bruin QB and successor to McCartney (right), Neuheisel beat the odds.

rings, and I can feel all this nervous energy coming over me. The coach tells me, 'Go ahead, answer it.' By this time he knows what I'm waiting for. I pick up the phone and somebody says, 'Uh, Coach Lombardi, there's a truant out here, what do you want us to do?' Anyway, a few minutes later Bill Marolt calls and says, 'You're the 21st head football coach at the University of Colorado.' I hung up, and Coach Lombardi pointed to the phone and said, 'Call your wife.'"

Neuheisel beams at this tale, more because it's a good story than because it's about his getting the job of a lifetime. Typical.

Yet there is nothing ordinary about this road that Colorado has chosen. Neuheisel is glib, hip and bright. He is young enough to connect with recruits and smart enough to impress academicians with a drop-dead interview. All this, however, is window dressing for the position of head football coach, a position Neuheisel has never before held at any level. Colorado's decision may be prescient. It may also be foolish. Clearly, it is an experiment.

Two stories, one of self-deprecation, the other of self-confidence. A hybrid of the two is the essence of the man Colorado has chosen to run its football program.

Story number 1 (UCLA, fall 1979): Neuheisel has walked on at UCLA, a 6'1", 180-pound quarterback from Tempe, Ariz. He is so deep on the quarterback depth chart that he needs a periscope to see second string. But he wants to play, so he volunteers for special teams duty. In the Bruins' season-ending 49–14 loss to USC, Neuheisel is assigned to the kickoff-return team and told to block the fourth defender in from the sideline. The number 4 defender is future NFL linebacker Larry McGrew, who buries Neuheisel early and repeatedly. His manhood challenged, Neuheisel vows revenge. "I go running out onto the field in the third quarter and I'm thinking, 'I'm gonna lay a hit on somebody

this time.' So I start counting again, 'One-two-three-four ... damn.' McGrew again." Neuheisel is removed from the field with both his face mask and his faculties knocked loose.

Story number 2 (UCLA, fall 1983): He is now a fifth-year senior who has finally become the starter, only to lose the job to sophomore Steve Bono, then get it back when Bono injures his shoulder against Stanford. Shortly thereafter, with UCLA in the middle of a five-game winning streak, offensive coordinator Homer Smith asks Neuheisel if he thinks he can complete 80% of his passes in a seven-on-seven practice passing drill. "Eighty percent if you call the plays," Neuheisel says to Smith. "Ninety percent if I call them."

Football coaches are often either former stars who understand greatness or former mediocrities who studied the intellectual nuances of the game. Neuheisel is both. When that senior season ended at UCLA, the Bruins had beaten Illinois 45–9 in the Rose Bowl, and Neuheisel was the offensive MVP. But at one time he had also been buried on the roster, without hope or a scholarship. "I'm remembered as one of the great quarterbacks ever to play at UCLA, when in fact I was truly average and hap-

pened to be part of this one magical season," he says. In this same vein, he sold himself to Colorado, and this is also how he sells himself to his team.

"There isn't a guy on this team whose situation I haven't been in," says Neuheisel. "I've been fifth string and starter and everything in between. I've been benched, I've been a hero."

Also, he was hungry far beyond his years. His career is a model of quiet, studied aggression. He earned a law degree from USC while working as a volunteer assistant coach at UCLA. (And he briefly joined his father's law firm, Neuheisel and Neuheisel. "I'm Neuheisel," he says.) He also played two years in the USFL and then returned as a coach to UCLA, where he tutored Troy Aikman into becoming the first pick of the 1989 NFL draft. But in early '94, when Neuheisel was only 32 years old, Homer Smith left UCLA



to become offensive coordinator at Alabama. UCLA coach Terry Donahue didn't hire Neuheisel to replace him, and Neuheisel was bitter. "I wasn't happy at all, but it wasn't Terry's job to make me happy," he says.

Smith saw in Neuheisel a finished product but wasn't surprised that he didn't get the UCLA job. "Rick was certainly ready to be a coordinator, eminently ready," says Smith. "But what Terry probably saw was a young guy who came in as a player. It's the oldest situation in the books. Sometimes it's easier to just move."

McCartney asked him to come to Colorado, with the condition that Neuheisel agree to stay at least three years, long enough to tutor both senior Kordell Stewart and sophomore Koy Detmer through their careers. Neuheisel agreed, and became a featured media player in the Buffaloes' season. Print media glommed on to Neuheisel as the Svengali behind Stewart's sudden development into a second-round draft choice. Television cameras easily found his blond head and young, expressive face.

To the cynics he seemed too perfect—a photo opportunity and a ready quote. But no one could deny that his work on the field was impeccable. Stewart was transformed in one season from a fragile athlete who seemed more at ease tucking and running than throwing, into a solid pocket passer with the added threat of breaking containment. And for this, Stewart credits Neuheisel. "If I'd worked with him for four years," says Stewart, "it would have been

With Neuheisel, it's never the same old song.



lights out, big-time. I would have been up there with [the No. 1 pick] Ki-Jana Carter."

None of this comes as a surprise to those who have worked with Neuheisel. Detmer, who takes over this fall as the starter, has sat through dozens of quarterback meetings with Neuheisel presiding. "He's fun, he's personable and he's played the game not too long ago," says Detmer. Says Smith: "Rick has this incredible knack of making the practice field feel like a game. He's had a very advanced football mind for a long time."

But Neuheisel is something more, something vaguely cockeyed among the fraternity of coaches. Consider: Last Oct. 27, two days before Colorado played at Nebraska in the Buffaloes' most important game of the year, Neuheisel was invited to speak at the weekly luncheon hosted by the Buffalo Belles, a female booster group that numbers more than 300. Customarily a coach attends their gathering with a player grudgingly in tow and dispenses some dry X's and O's and a bad joke or two, and exits. Not Neuheisel. Music is his avocation, so he arrived with a guitar and sang for the Belles an adaptation of a Jimmy Buffett song whose title is inappropriate (for the Belles and for SI), but which encourages drunken debauchery. Neuheisel's version, reported by the *Rocky Mountain News*, went like this:

I really do appreciate the fact that you've invited me here I also love the way you ladies all stand up and cheer But this week's a little different, it requires a different mind-frame, so . . .

Why don't we all kick butt and take names.

The folks up in Nebraska don't think this is a big game
They believe they will win just upon their name
But they don't know the Buffs Belles are not that tame, so ...
Why don't we all kick butt and take names

Michigan, Texas and now Nebraska, too, will all remember our games.

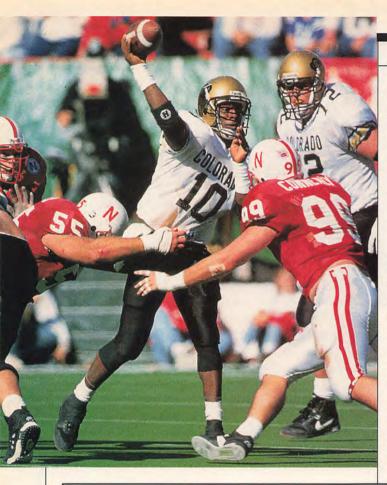
They say Colorado's no rival, well let's see what they say after ...

We all kick butt and take names.

By the finish, the Belles were singing along, duly charmed. "The consummate entertainer," said Belle member "Fritz" Satterly. "So witty, so glib, so cute." (Nebraska wasn't so cute two days later, starching Colorado 24–7. So blame Buffett.)

This is the extreme example. Neuheisel learned much of his motivational technique from Smith, a freethinking offensive guru who used to keep a dish of mini–chocolate bars in his office. If a player caught Smith in a mistake, he got a piece of candy. "Four out of five dentists do not recommend this teaching method," says Neuheisel. Smith says, "Rick took a lot of candy off me." Smith once arranged for a squadron of four jets to fly in formation over a UCLA practice, simply as a visual image of what an option play should look like fanned out to the sideline.

ARL YARBROUGH



coach to inspire, or is it a superfluous one? Part of Neuheisel's job is severing the loose friendships he established in the role of "young assistant" and tightening the long leash he gave players. When a Michigan State booster contacted Neuheisel last October before McCartney's resignation, Neuheisel thought the resulting media attention was "fun." Will he find jousting with the media so pleasant when the subject is a loss to Oklahoma or Nebraska?

So far Neuheisel has let his spirit move him and hasn't suffered too much from the consequences. To wit:

•In the spring of 1983, Neuheisel at last earns the starting quarterback job at UCLA. But before fall camp begins, he learns that Donahue might prefer to start sophomore Steve Bono. Incensed, Neuheisel writes Donahue a scathing letter, offering to quit. Donahue never responds. At season's end, Neuheisel learns that Donahue's secretary read the letter and kept it in her drawer, never delivering it to Donahue. "Pure good luck," says Neuheisel.

•In the summer of 1985, Neuheisel is invited to audition for the Green Bay Packers. He flies from Los Angeles to Green Bay and throws a total of three passes—one of which dislocates a Packer receiver's finger—before offensive coordinator Bob Schnelker terminates the workout. Neuheisel is thanked for his time and told to buy dinner for himself, on the Packers, before leaving town. "I'm infuriated at this point," says Neuheisel. "I only threw three balls. I ate something and the guy brought me

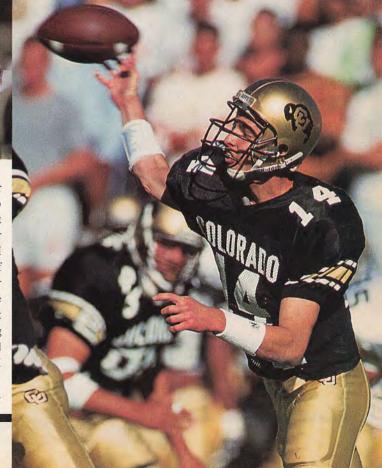
After great success developing Stewart (above) as a quarterback, Neuheisel has a new charge in Detmer.

From this approach Neuheisel has drawn up his own coaching philosophy. "This is what I've always wanted to do. I want to do it full speed, all out and let everything fall where it falls. And I want it to be fun."

And to everything that Neuheisel does there is a pervasive sense of joy. He possesses a spark, a positive attitude

wrapped in boyish charm. The grand question that looms over Colorado's hiring of Neuheisel is whether he is too young and too immature to take over such a high-profile program and keep it lodged near the top of the Top 25. Colorado junior linebacker Matt Russell, recalling the first time he met Neuheisel, says, "I thought for sure he was a recruit." But Russell was also one of a handful of players who cornered Marolt just minutes after McCartney's resignation and begged Marolt to stay inside the Colorado program in his search for a new coach. They didn't specifically ask for Neuheisel to be hired, but they were willing to accept him. "Even the guys on defense who had never played for Rick had heard about him from the offense," says Russell. "I knew they liked him an awful lot."

The question arises: Is affection a necessary quality for a



the check. It was, like, 19 bucks. There's about five couples in the room. I point to one of them and say, 'I'd like to buy their dinner. And their dinner... and their dinner.' The bill came to \$300, and I left a \$50 tip."

Neuheisel derives great pleasure from describing the hot September night in Athens, Ga., when the Georgia mascot, UGA IV, vomited on his shoes during the national anthem. Or how he sneaked out of the team hotel with friends before a game at Stanford that same magical autumn, found himself hungover for the game and was inserted for the injured

Bono. He had one warmup throw, then led the Bruins to a 39–21 victory, their first that season.

All of which can give the impression that Neuheisel is some sort of a highbrow version of John Jenkins, the offensive mad scientist who briefly built Houston into a powerhouse behind David Klingler and Andre Ware in the late '80s and early '90s. Jenkins, though, taught us that quirky doesn't look good on a loser. But Neuheisel's football is well-grounded. As he sat in a quarterback meeting last spring with Detmer and backups John

Hessler and Ayyub Abdul-Rahmaan, he dissected play after play with instruction and humor, and he also paused when a block was missed. "That," said the offensive boy wonder, "should be an ear-hole shot," invoking footballese for the type of block a player lives to deliver.

And on the morning of the '84 Rose Bowl, the game that would define Neuheisel's athletic career, he awoke with a case of food poisoning. Barely able to stand and with little sleep, he passed for 298 yards and four touchdowns.

Says Neuheisel, "I'm prepared for whatever comes along. But I'm not going to overprepare for failure."

The job of head coach is entirely different from coaching quarterbacks. Assistant coaches are the rado Buffi ad or the wer

Now Neuheisel is more than a coach. "It's amazing the number of things that cross your desk that have nothing to do with football," says Neuheisel. "I used to have time to run every day at lunchtime. As a head coach, I'm fund-raiser, administrator and many other things." But for this job he has—here's that word again—a vision.

He has wanted to coach for a very

good cop to the head coach's bad cop.

He has wanted to coach for a very long time. There is something to be said for a career that began when Neuheisel was just 11 and coached a baseball team—the Saber Cats—of eight- and

nine-year-olds. It also is noteworthy that the Saber Cats went 23-0.

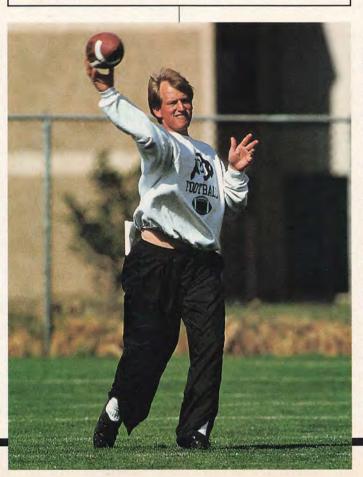
During one of his first staff meetings last winter, Neuheisel asked each of his assistants to write the name of a coach or teacher who had made an impact on his life. "Every one of them wrote down somebody who cared," says Neuheisel. "Somebody who went the extra mile for him. Some of the names went back to the fourth grade." Neuheisel pauses here, and for a rare moment he seems serious to his core. No guitar, no jokes. He has landed in a cutthroat business, following a legend of sorts. He is blessed

with youth and creativity, cursed with Nebraska and Oklahoma on his schedule (and this year, Texas A & M and Wisconsin as well). Still, his ideals are his strength. The smile fades. "Our job is to be the type of coach that somebody will someday write on that piece of paper," he says.

And one more thing: to be the type of coach who wins every game. Or almost every game. Neuheisel isn't about to forget that.

By now, little Jerry has made another tour of the training-table room in Boulder. The Cowboy helmet, homage to Neuheisel's buddy Aikman, has fallen off. He tosses the ball to Dad, the new Colorado coach. "Go! Go!" says Dad. Another throw clangs off Jerry's chest. "Gotta catch that," says Neuheisel. "Just gotta catch it."

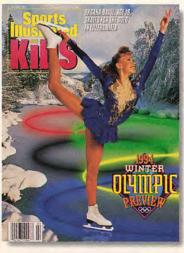
Neuheisel may have all the tools, but can he win?



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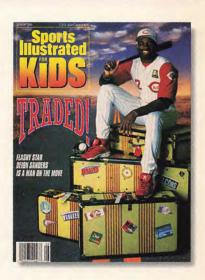


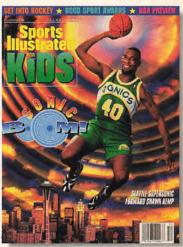


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## NO CONTEST

A FEW DOZEN GOOD REASONS WHY COLLEGE FOOTBALL IS BETTER THAN THE PRO KIND



nybody who has not had large portions of his cerebellum removed for scientific purposes knows that college football is better than pro football the way that Sean Connery is better than Roger Moore. Still, it's always nice to remind ourselves why.

For one thing, college football has Ralphie, Uga and Smokey the Blue Tick Hound. Pro football has Crazy George on too many Jolt colas.

College football has picnic blankets with candelabras at Harvard-Yale, brats on the grill at Michigan–Ohio State, cold beers at the Esso gas pumps before Clemson home games. Pro football has stadium nachos—now with actual foodlike cheese substance!

College football has Auburn's *Tiger Talk* radio show with Terry Bowden and calls like the following one:

"Coach Bowden?"

"Yessir."

"This is Bobby Dan Tallbutt down in Huntsville."

"Yessir, Bobby Dan."

"Just wanted to say War Eagle."

"War Eagle, Bobby Dan."

Pro football, meanwhile, has 103 FM's 24-hour *Sports Zoo*, in which Mad Mike continually screams things to the Captain, such as: "It's time the truth was told!!!!! Gale Sayers sucked!!!!!"

College football has the Rose Bowl, the Sugar Bowl, the Orange Bowl and a bowl system that, despite its flaws, has produced three stirring games in the last four years that were do-or-die for the ultimate national champion. Pro football has 1) the Super Bowl (average margin of victory the last 11 years: 22.4), and 2) the Bud Bowl (average margin of IQ points lost by watching it: 22.4).

College football has rich traditions: walking the Grove at Ole Miss, standing up for A & M, dotting the *i* at Ohio State. Pro football, on the other hand, has rich marketing guys with not enough to do. If pro football had its way, we would have AT & T Presents the i Plan: dotting the *i* with today's guest dotter—Willard Scott!

College football has *The Notre Dame Victory March, On Wisconsin, Hail to the Victors*. Pro football has *Houston Oilers No. 1*, which goes:

Houston Oilers

Houston Oilers

College football has rivalries that have not changed in 50 years:
Army-Navy, Texas-Oklahoma, Stanford-Cal, Florida-Georgia and about
25 others that keep players awake all night and cause receptionists to
answer phones by saying, "Beat Texas, Monolith Oil, how can I help
you?" The best pro football can do is Chicago-Green Bay, which hasn't
been a decent rivalry since Johnson-Goldwater.

College football is the bonfires at Texas A & M, between the hedges at Georgia, up on Rocky Top at Tennessee. Pro football is performance-

weighted draft picks offsetting a free-agent sell-off to skirt the salary cap.

College football has Stewart to Westbrook. Pro football has Anaheim

College football has Hook 'em, Horns! Whoo, pig, sooey! Roll, Tide! Pro football has giant clapping hands on the scoreboard, dot races and Chinstrap Nights.

College football will get you so delirious, you'll wear your school's underwear and throw an Also Receiving Votes Party. Pro football will have you wondering if you can leave early in the fourth in order to get home for the beginning of *She's the Sheriff*.

College football has Athens, Ga.; Eugene, Ore.; and Madison, Wis. Pro football has not one but two (2) teams in East Rutherford, N.J.

College football is the high-water pants. The lisp. The white visor. Pro football is Buddy Ryan in one of those horrid NFL Properties sweaters in which the team name gets swallowed up in an ocean of fat rolls.

College football is an Ohio State helmet adorned with Buckeyes, a Florida State helmet adorned with hatchets, a Penn State helmet adorned with nothing. Pro football is basically a whole lot of black and teal now, though some teams are trying something vastly different and refreshing: teal and black.

In college football, nobody is a free agent. Nobody gets traded. Nobody sits out their option year. In pro football this off-season, more than 200 players changed teams. What you're basically doing is rooting for your team's uniform design against the other team's uniform design.

College football is yell practice. Point push-ups. Shining the helmets. Pro football is the Buffalo Bills' professional cheerleaders, the Buffalo Jills, who recently formed a union. (Chief complaint: Thurman Thomas keeps pretending to lose helmet in our dressing room.)

College football is LSU's Tiger Stadium at night. Spring football in Strawberry Canyon at Cal. Annapolis when the leaves turn. Pro football is a guy with sleet hanging off his hat outside the Pontiac Silverdome, trying to get his butterfly valve unstuck.

College football is the Southern University Jaguar Band halftime show, runny makeup on homecoming queens, a 92-year-old halfback at midfield. Pro football is a halftime show with Michael Jackson attempting a groin pull.

College football has Keith Jackson saying, "Whoa, Nellie, we're fixin' to have a barn burner!" Pro football has Beasley Reece and Jerry Glanville discussing the roll-up zone.

A college football player will tell you he loves his team, will play there for four years and will wear his school ring the rest of his life. A pro football player will tell you he loves his team, will play there for six months, sign with a team in the same division, play for six other teams before his career is over—and wear his school ring the rest of his life.

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